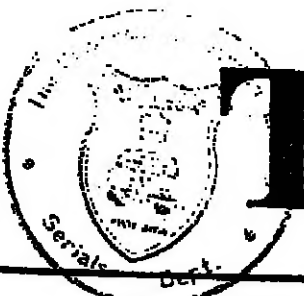


Britain's voice must be heard



By Sebastian Coombe

No 62,597



THE

FRIDAY OCTOBER 24 1986

TIMES

25p

Trade figures hit by High Street boom

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain's consumer boom is leading to an alarming increase in imports, according to figures issued yesterday. Trade with other countries was in deficit by £887 million last month and the City expects the figures to become substantially worse in the coming months.

At the heart of the problem are the high street spending spree and the pound's weakness. In the latest three months, the volume of imports rose by 9 per cent, while consumer spending in the third quarter was 5.2 per cent up in real terms on a year ago, according to separate official figures released yesterday.

Britain is on course for the strongest growth in consumer spending since 1978, fuelled by large real wage rises.

The trade figures, which were much worse than analysts expected, hit the pound and sent interest rates in the money markets higher again.

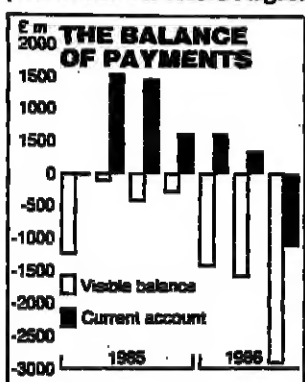
"We are still looking for 12 per cent base rates," said one money market trader.

The last base rate increase, from 10 to 11 per cent, was reluctantly conceded by the Chancellor, has produced mortgage rate rises of 1.25 to 1.5 points this week. Any

further base rate rise would go directly on to mortgage rates. The pound fell by 0.75 cents to \$1.4235 and the sterling index from 67.6 to 67.5, despite some support from the Bank of England.

Share prices fell: the FT 30-share index dropped 12.5 points to 1,249.9.

A big turnaround was expected after the record August



deficits of £1.49 billion on trade and £886 million on current account. Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, had described the August figures as "freak".

Last month's figures, with trade in deficit by £877 million and a current account deficit of £277 million, were better, but not good enough for the City. Some analysts had expected the current account to move into surplus.

"These figures were very disappointing," said Mr Chris Johns, economist at Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker. "There

is no light at the end of the tunnel; the trade figures are going to get worse as we go into 1987. The consumer boom going on out there is sucking in imports."

"The import side is truly awful," said Mr Gavyn Davies, economist at Goldman Sachs. He added that last month's trade figures appear to be in line with the underlying trend, which is for an annual current account deficit of £3 billion or more.

The deficit on current account for the first nine months of the year was £209 million, compared with the Treasury's Budget-time forecast of a £3.5 billion surplus for the whole year. Trade in goods was in deficit by £6 billion.

Unless there is an improvement before the end of the year, the balance of payments will record an annual deficit for the first time since 1979, with worse expected next year.

Department of Trade and Industry officials pointed to the strength of exports last month. At £6.08 billion, they were 11 per cent up on August. But a large part of this increase was due to higher exports of oil, up £89 million, and the erratic items of trade, in this case aircraft and diamonds, up £230 million.

Export volumes in the latest three months were up by 2.5 per cent to record levels. But this appears to be an insipid response to the pound's fall against the European currencies over the past year.

Increase in water rates is expected

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Water rates are likely to rise by 5-6 per cent next year because the Government is forcing water authorities to accelerate repayment of their debts.

But the 12 million customers of the Thames Water Authority, the largest in Britain, could face a 10 per cent rise, when Thames only wants an increase of 3 per cent to match inflation.

Already being forced to repay its debts faster than it wishes, Thames is this year paying back £83 million of its borrowings. But Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary, has asked the authority next year to repay £114 million of its outstanding loans.

The other water authorities have been given similar targets. Between them they are being forced to borrow £110 million less in 1987 than in 1986.

Mr Roy Watts, the chairman of the Thames Water Authority, said: "It seems as if we shall, once again, be asked to substantially increase our repayment of long term debt in the coming year. At this rate we shall be entirely debt free within three years, which amounts to a very poor deal for today's consumer."

What worries Tory MPs is that 1987 could be an election year. With the Tory shires already due to be hit by Mr Ridley's proposed distribution of the rate support grant, they do not welcome the idea of higher water rates. Of the 150 constituencies in the Thames Water Authority's area, around 130 are Conservative.



Former emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa of the Central African Republic was arrested returning from exile yesterday.

Execution possibility for Bokassa

Bangui (Reuter) - Former emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa was arrested when he returned unexpectedly from exile yesterday and the Government issued a public reminder that he was sentenced to death in his absence.

A statement released by the office of President Andre Kolingba of the Central African Republic (CAR) confirmed that Mr Bokassa was arrested at Bangui airport on his return from France.

"Jean-Bedel Bokassa has been arrested by members of the CAR's presidential security and committed to jail," the statement said.

Hinting that he could be executed, the statement said Bokassa would be held "with a view to the application of the procedure envisaged by the law."

The statement listed the crimes for which Bokassa, aged 65, was sentenced to death. These included assassinations, complicity in assassinations, concealing corpses, arbitrary arrests, wilful attacks on children resulting in their death and embezzling state funds and goods.

The former French army captain, who was overthrown in a 1979 coup after allegations of human rights violations, was arrested by security forces as he arrived from Rome.

PARIS: Mr Bokassa lived in a chalet on the outskirts of Paris and his movements were controlled by police. (Susan MacDonald writes).

He constantly complained that the French authorities had taken his documents and that he was so poor that he could not feed his family.

Newcastle women die of Aids

The Newcastle General Infirmary confirmed yesterday that two women have died of Aids this month. Both are understood to be heterosexuals, one a married woman aged 21, with a child.

The hospital refused to confirm that the other woman was married to a haemophilic and had contracted the disease through him.

Dr Charles Farthing, an Aids registrar at St Stephen's Hospital, Fulham, said yesterday that thousands of women were carrying the Aids virus and that hundreds of these would develop the full disease by 1991.

He said it was not the least bit reassuring that only a few women had so far contracted the disease in this country.

"In New York one woman in every two men have contracted the disease. In Africa there are equal numbers of men and women with the disease. We know that 50,000 people are infected with the virus in this country."

Dr Farthing said that women must now be given the same message that was belatedly being given to high-risk groups.

More than 90 per cent of the women who have so far developed the disease have died, compared to about 50 per cent of the men. Fourteen of the 15 women in Britain who have developed Aids have died.

The Northern Regional Health Authority medical officer, Dr Liam Donaldson, yesterday criticized the publicity about the deaths of the women, saying that by-passing the medical code of conduct on confidentiality could cause untold distress.

RUC prepares scapegoats for 'shoot to kill'

By David Sapsted and Richard Ford

The Royal Ulster Constabulary has earmarked "sacrificial lambs" in advance of the inquiry report into claims that the force operated a deliberate shoot-to-kill policy, according to security sources yesterday.

Mr Colin Sampson, West Yorkshire chief constable, who took over the inquiry earlier this year when Mr John Stalker was suspended, is expected to send his report to Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, within a fortnight.

However, informed sources have told *The Times* that senior RUC officers have laid plans for colleagues to be sacrificed should any blame be apportioned by Mr Sampson for the control of an elite police squad responsible for the killings of six unarmed terrorist suspects.

A leading member of the Police Federation in Northern Ireland said last night: "There is a lot of anger within the RUC that junior officers have been the scapegoats from the very start. We are simply not prepared to see this happen yet again when the Sampson report appears."

It is known that Mr Stalker was unable to establish the chain of command of the Special Support Unit, initially trained by the Strategic Air Services and subsequently renamed the Headquarters Mobile Support Unit based at Lismaharragh Barracks, east Belfast.

The change of name came about because the initials SSU were regarded as too close to SAS and implied a military-style unit.

The Greater Manchester deputy chief constable was taken off the inquiry, which he had headed for two years, five days before he was due to question Sir John Hermon, RUC chief constable, about the control and activities of this unit, including the attempted cover-up after the 1982 killings.

According to RUC contacts, the squad operated as a law unto itself with officers, even constables, refusing to accept the authority of more senior officers not in the unit.

An officer with the Special Support Unit, for instance, is understood to have told a superior to "go away and have a meal" when he arrived to investigate the shootings of Martin MacAuley and a Michael Tighe, aged 17, who was killed but had no known involvement with terrorist groups, in a barn in November 1982.

The instruction was apparently to enable certain members of the special unit to agree the version of events that would appear in the official record.

Subsequently, a chief inspector and a superintendent were blamed in court for concocting a phoney version of events leading to the shooting of two unarmed men.

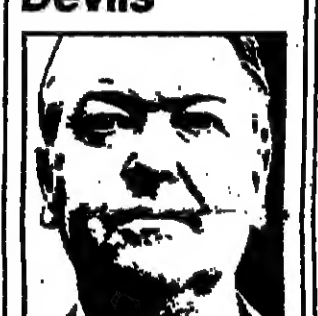
Three other members of the special unit were cleared of the murder of a trio of unarmed IRA men whose car failed to stop at a roadblock at Lurgan earlier in November 1982.

A third shooting, in Armagh in December 1982, led directly

Continued on page 20, col 3

Tomorrow

The Old Devils



His Booker Prize win establishes Kingsley Amis as the funniest comic novelist since the war. Tomorrow *The Times* publishes an exclusive extract from *The Old Devils*, the book that has brought recognition long overdue.

Portfolio

● The Times Portfolio Gold daily competition prize of £4,000 was shared yesterday by three readers: Mrs Y. Brown of Hitchin, Herts; Mrs H. Parsons of Chelmsford, Essex; and Mr M. Bland of Clifton, Bristol. Details, page 3.

● Portfolio list, page 27; how to play, information service, 20.

TIMES BUSINESS

All systems go

Last Saturday's dress rehearsal on the new screen-quoted price system for the City's Big Bang was a success. The Stock Exchange insisted, despite complaints from market-makers of serious shortcomings.

Useful music

The Really Useful Group which has commercial rights to Andrew Lloyd Webber's musicals, increased pretax profits from £2.6 million to £4.3 million for the year to June 30.

TIMES SPORT

Football hopes

The manager of Real Madrid would like to see English football clubs re-admitted to the European competition.

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Tory libel 'pressure' is denied

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

The libel action brought by two Conservative MPs against the BBC over the *Panorama* programme "Maggie's Militant Tendency" exploded in the Commons yesterday with a Labour MP claiming that Central Office had pressurized potential witnesses in the case.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, MP for Workington, said he had a letter written by someone in the Young Conservatives to Mr John Gummer, then chairman of the Tory party on November 24, 1984, saying that Mr David Mitchell, head of the party's legal office, had been in contact with members of a Tory delegation to Berlin - a trip featured in the programme.

He claimed that the letter disclosed that Mr Mitchell had told one member of the delegation that his account of events was "incorrect" and should be altered to corroborate those of others who, he had arranged, were to give their "adjusted versions" in writing.

His allegations were angrily denied by Mr Norman Tebbit, the Conservative Party chairman, who told MPs: "I should say that the allegations made, the honourable gentleman has made, not to the police but under the cloak of privilege, will be answered immediately by me outside without the benefit of the cover of privilege."

Outside the chamber he said: "I deny absolutely having in any way interfered with witnesses. To the best of my belief there is no truth whatsoever in the allegations that any member of my staff has ever done so."

"I am aware that one potential witness sought advice from Central Office and was told that no guidance could be given. Indeed, I have seen a copy of the letter to that effect."

"During the libel case, on my instructions, subpoenas to my staff were answered fully and with due despatch."

US calls tit-for-tat expulsions truce

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States yesterday called a truce in the month-long round of tit-for-tat expulsions between the superpowers by making clear that it would not respond to the latest expulsion of five American diplomats.

"We hope this set of issues can now be put behind us," a State Department statement said.

It said the US would review all aspects of the bilateral diplomatic relationship "to ensure that the principle of reciprocity governs all facets of that relationship."

But it firmly expressed the desire "to get on with resolution of the larger issues affecting US-Soviet relations and build on the progress made in the discussions at Reykjavik."

In response to Moscow's withdrawal of 260 Soviet maids, mechanics, drivers, kitchen helpers and clerks from the US Embassy in Moscow and the consulate in Leningrad, the State Department said "equal and reciprocal

restrictions will apply to the activities of the Soviet Embassy and consulate-general in San Francisco."

Mr Charles Redman, a State Department spokesman, said the Russians employ only 10 Americans, mainly as translators. He welcomed Moscow's acknowledgement "that the principles of equality and reciprocity should serve as the basis for the diplomatic missions of the two countries."

US officials acknowledged that American diplomats in the Soviet Union are going to suffer some privations.

Mr Redman said the US considered the latest Soviet expulsions to be a "wholly unwarranted response" to the US expulsion of 55 Soviet diplomats.

Reagan Administration officials believe the expulsion of the Soviet diplomats, who must leave by November 1, has decapitated the Kremlin's intelligence network in the United States.

American diplomats on hardship posting in the Soviet Union found their personal and professional lives thrown into chaos yesterday as the Kremlin escalated the tit-for-tat dispute and barred over 250 Soviet support staff from reporting for work.

This action and the gloomy picture of the post-Reykjavik atmosphere painted by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev during his Wednesday night broadcast to the nation have shattered any optimism that a new arms control agreement might soon be constructed on the ruins of the Iceland summit.

The first sign of how hard the new sanctions were going to hit came as scores of children were left stranded as buses failed to arrive at the diplomatic compound to take them to the Anglo-American School situated in a suburb of Moscow.

Among those who failed to turn up for work were maids, translators, drivers, cooks, washers-up, cleaners and labourers. All have been banned indefinitely from working for the Americans in retaliation for the expulsion orders issued to 55 Soviet diplomats in the US on Tuesday.

In the restaurant inside the heavily-guarded US Embassy compound, the kitchens were closed and the day's speciality of quail had been replaced by

Continued on page 20, col 6

Wartime spirit at American embassy

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

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Continued on page 20, col 6

NUT threatens strike over race case appeal

By Howard Foster

The National Union of Teachers yesterday called on Mr Kenneth Baker, Education Secretary, to demand the immediate reinstatement of suspended head teacher Miss Maureen McGoldrick.

The union warned that its members in the borough of Brent may take strike action at half-term unless she gets her job back following the left-wing council's decision to appeal against a High Court ruling that the headmistress, aged 39, be reinstated.

Mr Justice Roch ruled that a finding in August by the governors of Sudbury Infant School in Wembley that there was no evidence of racism against Miss McGoldrick was binding on the council.

Pupils had been fully expecting Miss McGoldrick to return after hearing of the High Court decision in her favour. The children had posted up the word WELCOME in almost 20 different languages.

On the day the offence took place, her doctor had informed her that she had only six months to live. Understandably depressed, she had drunk too much. "Well, we've all got to die sometime," Mr Jobling remarked, before imposing a £300 fine and disqualifying her from driving for eighteen months.

Few who were present will

Hindawi jury sent to hotel

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

The jury trying Nezar Hindawi, the Jordanian journalist accused of attempting to use his girlfriend as a human bomb on an El Al aircraft, was sent to an hotel last night after a day of deliberation on their verdict.

Mr Hindawi, aged 32, has pleaded not guilty at the Central Criminal Court to giving his unwitting girlfriend, Miss Ann Murphy, a bag containing explosives and a timer to take on an El Al flight.

Miss Murphy, five months pregnant, was booked to fly to Tel Aviv on a Boeing 747 containing 375 people.

The defence has said that Mr Hindawi was recruited in Syria by a drug trafficker and believed the bag contained drugs.

Mr Hindawi has pleaded guilty to possessing a Browning pistol and 25 rounds of ammunition.

Midland lifts home loan rate

By Martin Baker

The Midland Bank and the Woolwich Equitable Building Society have joined the current round of mortgage rate increases - with the Midland imposing the largest rise so far.

The Woolwich has decided to follow the Halifax Building Society in raising its mortgage rate by 1/4 percentage points to 13 1/4 per cent from November 1, leaving the Abbey National out of line on 12 1/2 per cent.

But the Midland Bank announced a 1 1/2 percentage point rise to a nominal 12.5 per cent yesterday, also effective from November 1.

Midland Bank does, however, stress that because of the way it does its mortgage calculations its loans are no more expensive than building society debt.

Midland's 105,000 borrowers will pay a true rate of 13.1 per cent.

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Police win access to riot pictures

A judge yesterday ordered two newspaper editors and a news agency to hand over to police on demand a series of photographs taken during the recent riots in Bristol.

The *Western Daily Press* and the *Bristol Evening Post*, both in the Bristol United Press group, and the Bristol Press and Picture News Agency, had resisted a police action in the High Court in Bristol to force them to hand over news photographs.

But Mr John Royce, for Avon and Somerset police, said the photographs would be of substantial benefit to police investigating serious crimes committed in the St Paul's area of Bristol on September 11 and 12.

Mr Justice Stuart-Smith, delivering his judgement after a hearing last week, ordered the news organizations to hand over their photographs.

Mr Brian Jones, editor of the *Bristol Evening Post*, said that an appeal was being considered.

Solstice revival

A celebration of the Midsummer solstice Druid ceremony will be held at Stonehenge next year, it has been announced.

The English Heritage commission has given its approval for the ceremony, providing it does not take the form of a pop concert and is now negotiating plans with the National Trust.

Warning on toys

A "Thomas the Tank" model engine could poison children, Mr Mike Givens, trading standards officer for Gloucestershire, claimed yesterday.

He said that the red paint on the Chinese-made models contains too much lead.

The two-inch long models, which sell for about £2, carry the trademark ERTL - USA.

Jaguar cars makes 11 per cent offer

Government hopes of restricting wage rises to below the level of inflation have suffered another setback with a pay offer of up to 11 per cent for 8,000 hourly-paid workers at Jaguar cars (Tim Jones writes).

The offer, 22 per cent spread over two years, will be debated next week by shop stewards. It comes at a period when inflation is running at 3 per cent.

Last month, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, urged employers to make a tougher stand against pay claims which threatened to upset the Government's financial strategy.

Two days later, the Electrical, Electronic Telecommunications and Plumbing Union promptly ignored his words and announced a pay offer of 8 per cent for more than 12,000 of its members.



Surprise ending

A retired advertising executive who was clumsy when entering a BBC drama competition was pleasantly surprised to receive a cheque for £4,500 from Princess Margaret (left) at Television Centre, west London, yesterday.

Mr Ron Pearson, of Leeds, winner of this year's *Radio Times* award for the best television play, said: "I didn't actually know what the prize was, because I tore the entry form in half when sending it in."

Mr Martin Crump, of Richmond, Surrey, won the radio play award.

Murder police want to quiz dog walker

Detectives investigating the murder of Nicola Fellows, aged 10, and Karen Hadaway, aged 9, in a park on the edge of Brighton want to find a man who was walking his two dogs in the park on the night the girls were strangled.

The man, aged about 30, and using a golf club as a walking stick, was in Wild Park, Moulsecombe, Brighton, between 6pm and 6.30pm on October 9. He had two medium-sized dogs with him.

Inspector Peter Kennett of Sussex police said: "He is one of a number of people who we know were in the park that evening and who have still not come forward, despite repeated appeals. They may have important information."

The girls disappeared from their homes in Newick Road, Moulsecombe, a housing estate on the outskirts of Brighton. Their bodies were found in dense undergrowth in the park, a few hundred yards from their homes, on October 10. They had been sexually assaulted.

Fine over Busmen's pig fever

A farmer and his wife at the centre of a swine fever epidemic in which 1,000 animals had to be slaughtered, were fined £720 by magistrates at Droitwich, Hereford and Worcester, yesterday.

Jack Reeves, aged 51, and his wife, Clare, aged 32, of Brook Farm, Bradley Green, who admitted breaking animal hygiene regulations by feeding their animals with unprocessed waste food, were also ordered to pay £172 costs.

The Treat Bus Company, which serves Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and parts of Leicestershire, announced yesterday that it is ceasing regular service for eight days over Christmas, starting at 9 pm on December 24, to cut losses because of probable lack of custom.

It will mean a long Christmas holiday for the 1,100 bus crews, but both Derbyshire Chamber of Commerce and Chamber of Trade expressed concern

Left split on front bench election

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

The forthcoming elections to the Shadow Cabinet have split the Labour left and given the already dominant centre-right grouping hopes of further advance.

The soft-left Tribune Group and the hard-left Campaign Group have failed after months of negotiations to repeat last year's agreement to have a joint slate of candidates.

Last year, the pact between both groups helped the left to gain a place at the expense of the centre right, which now has nine of the 15 elected seats.

But as nominations for the elections closed yesterday, hopes of another deal founded on the insistence of the Campaign Group that all members of both groups should have their votes officially recorded.

Last year, Campaign Group members largely held to the agreement in a disciplined manner but the Tribune Group was not so rigorous, and several of the left candidates regarded as hostile to the leadership received fewer than the number of votes their joint strength would have delivered.

The Campaign Group has left off its slate Mr Tam Dalyell, MP for Linlithgow and newly elected member of

the national executive, punishing him immediately for his decision on Wednesday to back Mr Neil Kinnock over imposing a parliamentary candidate on Knowlesy North.

Only two of its 11-member slate appear also on the Tribune slate. Mr Michael Meacher and Ms Jo Richardson, and only Mr Meacher seems likely to be re-elected.

Mr Roland Boyes, chairman of the Tribune Group, said last night: "If the left fails to increase its representation I feel the responsibility must lie with the Campaign Group."

The centre right has hopes of raising its representation at least to 10, with Dr David Clark, one of the front-bench environment spokesman,

upped as a likely newcomer. The left's five representatives, Mr Stan Orme, Mr Robin Cook, Mr Meacher, Mr John Prescott and Mr Robert Hughes, had their votes increased last year as a result of the joint slate, and may face a drop in votes because of the split.

Mr Tony Benn is making another attempt to return to the Shadow Cabinet, although his hopes are slim without the support of the Tribune Group.

The slates are "denotes sitting member": Solidarity: Mr Peter Archer, Dr David Clark, Mr Jack Cunningham, Mr Terry Davis, Mr Donald Dewar, Mr Denis Healey, Mr Brynmor John, Mr Barry Jones, Mr

Gerald Kaufman, Mr John Morris, Mr Giles Radice, Mr George Robertson, Mr Peter Shore, Mr John Smith, Mr Alan Williams.

Tribune: Mr Stan Orme, Mr John Prescott, Mr Robin Cook, Mr Robert Hughes, Mr Michael Meacher, Mr Jack Straw, Mr Bryan Gould, Mr Clive Soley, Ms Jo Richardson, Mr Frank Dobson.

Campaign: Mr Tony Banks, Mrs Margaret Beckett, Mr Tony Benn, Mr Dennis Canavan, Mr Jeremy Corbyn, Mr Max Madden, Mr Meacher, Ms Jo Richardson, Mr Brian Sedgmore, Ms Clare Short, Mr Gavin Strang.

Driver in train disaster 'did not know of signal changes'

By Ian Smith

A public inquiry into the Colwich rail disaster yesterday was told that the driver of the London to Manchester train took it through a red light, straight into the path of a 100mph express train, because he was unaware of crucial signal changes made a month earlier.

Emergency braking reduced the speed of the Manchester-bound express to walking pace but could not prevent it straddling the main line junction at Colwich, in Staffordshire, where the London-bound Liverpool train was approaching.

Only a miracle prevented multiple death among 873 passengers as both engines and 10 carriages were derailed and live overhead wires torn down, sending electricity leaping along the track.

The sole fatality was Mr Eric Goode, aged 58, the London-bound driver, who died instantly. Seventy five passengers were injured, including the Nicaraguan ambassador to London.

At the public inquiry, held in Crewe, the driver of the Manchester-bound train, Mr Brian Shaw, aged 56, an Inter-City driver for the past five years, told how he approached a red light 250 yards from the junction at about 25mph, expecting it to change any second.

Instead it remained on red and as Mr Shaw desperately tried to halt his train he glanced through trees by the track and was horrified to see an express train hurtling towards him.

A split second before the impact Mr Shaw leapt from his cab and fell on to the track alongside Mr Mark Organ, aged 22, a trainee driver who had wrenched open the driver's door and flung himself out.

Mr Organ was travelling illegally but Mr Shaw said he had allowed him into the cab of *The Times*, named by Mr Charles Douglas-Home, the former editor, in the paper's bicentenary year, because he thought the young man was an experienced driver wanting to check out a new route before taking an express along it.

Mr Shaw's fatal error stemmed from not reading a driver's weekly notice, which warned of a change in the signal system introduced on August 17, and no longer guaranteed his north-bound train the right of way.

Mr Peter Millward, the Colwich signalman, told the inquiry that *The Times* was going slowly forward all the while and I assumed it would come to a stop - but it didn't.

"What I then knew was going to happen did happen and I just looked down the line holding my heart in my hands."

About five minutes after the collision Mr Shaw stumbled into his signal box and the two exchanged angry words, with Mr Millward accusing the driver of going through a red light and Mr Shaw insisting he had presumed flashing yellow lights meant he could safely proceed.

Throughout the inquiry, nearly 100 railwaymen, many of them close colleagues of the dead driver, listened attentively as expert witnesses testified that both the London to Manchester train's brakes and track signals were in perfect working order.

Afterwards they criticized the "cavalier" way British Rail feeds them important information.

The inquiry report will not be published for some months.



Mr Brian Shaw (left), the driver of the Manchester-bound train, and Mr Mark Organ, who was travelling in the cab.

Policy put to Liberals on defence

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

The Liberal leadership yesterday adopted a means of winning party approval for its new defence policy which, it hopes, will by-pass the need for a possibly awkward special assembly.

But even as that exercise began, the new policy was being ridiculed in the Commons by the Prime Minister.

"I don't think many people will take seriously a political party which, on a subject as important as the independent deterrent, claims it is committed to maintaining it but can't agree on how to do so," Mrs Margaret Thatcher said, echoing the same sentiments expressed by Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, earlier this summer.

On Wednesday night Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, had explained that the Alliance would not go into an election committed to a particular form of nuclear hardware, but would take that decision in government. That was seen immediately as a considerable shift on Dr Owen's part.

Rare thrush eaten by cat

Hundreds of bird watchers, nicknamed "twitters", went to the Scilly Isles to catch a glimpse of the grey-cheeked thrush, which had been blown off its migration course.

But the "twitters" were told on arrival that the rare American visitor had been eaten by a local cat.

York stone

A six-foot high stone pinnacle weighing half a ton, which was brushed by a steepjack doing restoration work on York Minster, fell to the ground yesterday, hours after the road and footpath below were closed. No one was hurt.

By the Times overseas
Australia \$29, Belgium 8, Frs 50, Germany 10, Italy 10, Japan 10, New Zealand 10, Norway 10, Portugal 10, Spain 10, Sweden 10, Switzerland 10, UK 10, USA 10, Yugoslavia 10.

FitzGerald wins confidence vote

By Richard Ford

The Irish Republic's coalition government won a crucial motion of confidence last night, enabling it to limp on in power until at least the Budget in the new year.

Dr Garret FitzGerald's Fine Gael-Labour coalition won the vote by 83 to 81 when two dissident backbenchers supported the administration.

But as deputies returned to their constituencies after the prime minister's toughest week in power, the government was bracing itself for a difficult Dail session until the Christmas recess.

Mr Haughey's Fianna Fail

opposition will continue to harass the government though it cannot lay another motion of no confidence for another six months.

During the two-day debate the government defended its record while attacking the previous administration of Fianna Fail for mismanaging the country's finances, but Mr Haughey described the coalition as a house of cards.

The real test for the government will be in January when it must frame a tough Budget aimed at restoring order to the public finances.

Kinnock minimizes pledge on pensions

By Nicholas Wood
Political Reporter

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday dramatically toned down pension pledges given to the Labour conference by Mr Michael Meacher, his chief Social Services spokesman.

The Labour leader made clear his commitment went no further than an extra £5 a week for single pensioners and £8 for married couples.

The conference earlier this month passed overwhelmingly a resolution calling on the next Labour government to raise pensions immediately to not less than half of average earnings for a married couple and not less than a third for single people.

With average earnings presently running at £185 a week, this would mean increases of more than £20 a week for single people and about £30 a week for couples.

The conference also sought to commit the party to other expensive measures such as exempting pensioners from standing charges for utilities and the TV licence fee, bringing in free fares on public transport, doubling the tax-free Christmas bonus to £20 and producing a strategy to reduce the retirement age for men to 60.

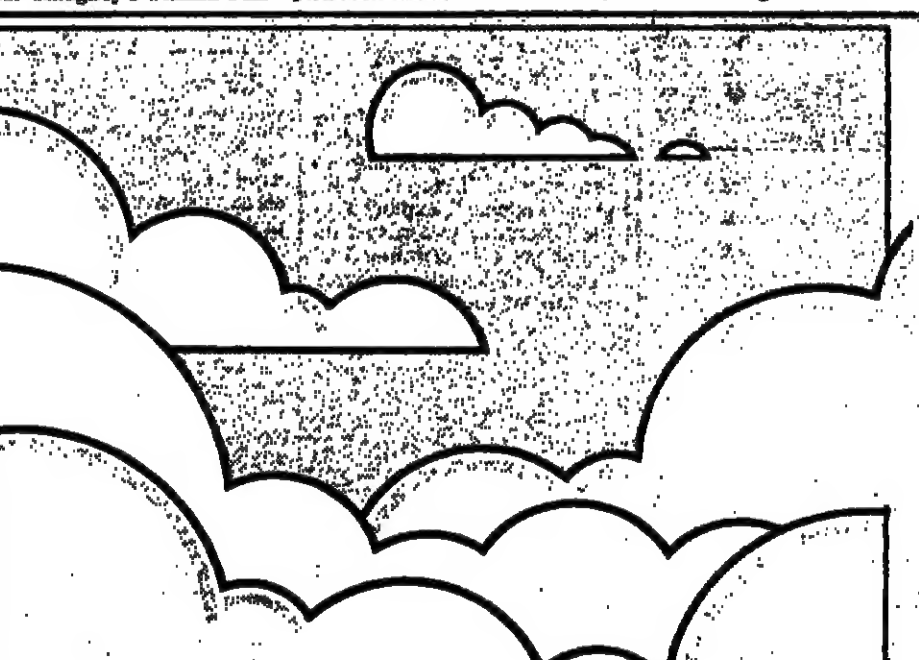
Yesterday, in the wake of Mr Kinnock's speech to pensioners in London, party sources emphasized that the conference vote only made the package "eligible" for inclusion in the next manifesto, and was not binding.

Supporters of Mr John Silkin, the former Labour minister, yesterday alleged a systematic Trotskyite takeover of his Lewisham Deptford constituency party (Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent, writes).

The party has been given the go-ahead to select a new candidate for the next general election.

Labour's national executive is to investigate a Militant-infiltrated constituency which is attempting to oust one of its longest-serving MPs (Martin Fletcher writes).

The inquiry was requested by the MP, Mr James Tinn, and its announcement came two days before the management committee of his Redcar constituency was itself going to complain to the national executive about Mr Tinn's refusal to resign.



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Student leaders forestall violence

Meticulous planning by students at Bristol University forestalled a repetition yesterday of the violent confrontations which have characterized recent student union meetings (David Cross writes).

Precautions included the smuggling in of two guest speakers, Mr Ray Honeyford, the former Bradford head teacher, and Mr Jonathan Savery, a multi-cultural teacher in Bristol.

Last week, Mr Enoch Powell, the Ulster Unionist MP, was prevented from speaking on the topic of law reform and drug trafficking by a group of anarchists and left-wing activists who accused him of racism.

Yesterday, Mr Honeyford, the former head of Drummond Middle School, and Mr Savery, who has fallen foul of Avon Education Authority, were speaking on the issue of

free speech and academic freedom.

Both men have been accused of racism, for articles which they wrote for the *Salisbury Review*.

Fearing a repetition of last week's violent scenes, in which the public address system was smashed, student leaders took the precaution of appointing 80 stewards from the rugby and football teams to screen all those entering the students union after 8.30 am. Much of last week's violence was blamed on protesters who were no longer students at the university.

As a handful of protesters from the local branch of the National Union of Teachers and from the Socialist Workers Party gathered outside the union building in mid-morning, Mr Honeyford and Mr Savery were brought in through an underground car park.

Kinnock
minimizes
pledge on
pensions

Firms urged to recognize stress factor

By Jill Sherman

Stress-related illness is a management rather than a medical problem, doctors claimed at a conference in London yesterday.

The conference on "Stress and the City" was told that 60 per cent of absence through work was caused by short-term, stress-related illness.

Dr Joe Kearns, medical director of BUPA Occupational Health, the private health insurance organization, said that an estimated 100 million working days a year are lost because people cannot face going to work.

This is more than three times the number of work days lost through strikes in 1979, the year of the "winter of discontent".

Dr Kearns gave a warning that next Monday's "big bang" at the Stock Exchange could boost stress levels even higher as employees, already in high pressure jobs, will have to adapt to extensive changes and the new problems of high technology virtually overnight.

A MORI survey of city and financial organizations, commissioned by BUPA, found that nearly two thirds of the firms regarded stress as the main health issue affecting their employees. When asked to evaluate the amount of stress in their organization, accountancy firms scored the highest with building societies close behind.

Those involved in or associated with the "big bang" came third. The poll, conducted among senior managers, also disclosed that the middle manager aged from 30 to 50 was believed to be more vulnerable to stress than senior managers.

But Dr Kearns said that although firms are increasingly worried about the effects of stress, few are doing anything constructive about it.

£98,631 damages for breast removal

A mother who had both her breasts removed when a doctor mistakenly diagnosed cancer won £98,631 damages in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Justice Boreham said it was "difficult for a mere male to understand properly" the effect on a woman of losing her breasts.

The woman, Mrs Marnella Vaughan, aged 49, suffered acute distress for more than two years when she was led to believe she had cancer and, at times, thought that her days were numbered.

She has been scarred and disfigured by an operation that need never have taken place.

"To a woman of her age, breasts may no longer nourish a baby," the judge said.

"But no woman of her age or of a more advanced age would ever regard her breasts as no longer useful."

"Whatever the physical function they may perform, their cosmetic value and their contribution to a woman's confidence in herself and her body must be very substantial indeed, and the loss of them must be substantial."

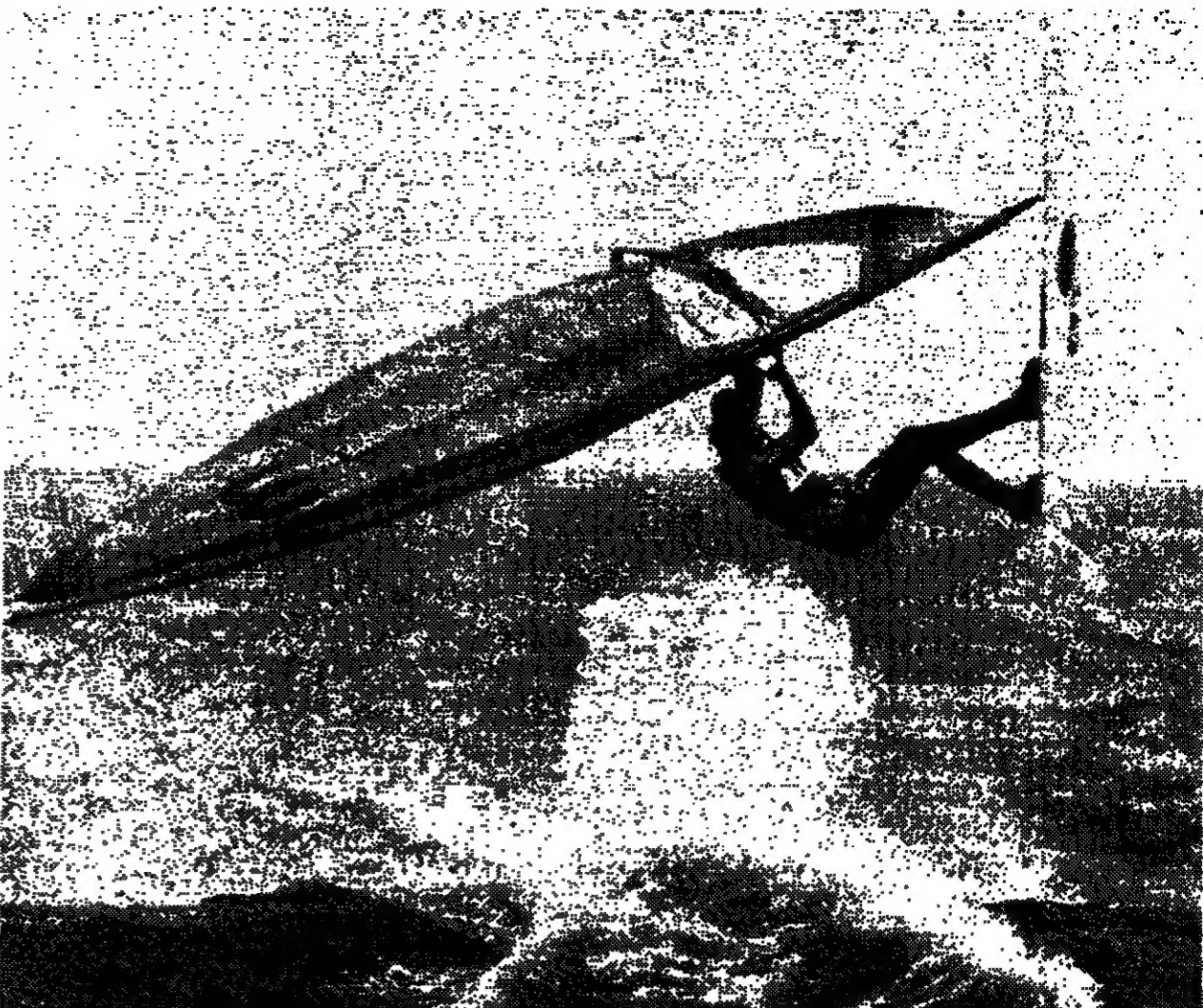
The judge said that Mrs Vaughan, of Golborne Road, North Kensington, west London, was referred by a family planning clinic to St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, when a lump was discovered in her right breast in July 1981.

After a series of tests at the hospital Mrs Vaughan was told she had cancer and later both breasts were removed.

In January 1984 samples of tissue were sent to the Royal Marsden Hospital when it was discovered that she never had cancer at all.

Mrs Vaughan had to give up work.

The judge awarded her £25,000 for the pain and emotional upset, £3,000 for her inability to do the housework, and £15,000 for help in the home. He awarded her £49,870 for the loss of her job. The balance of the award was made up of interest.



A contestant swinging high at Marazion in the Ricard South-west Funboard championship in Cornwall. The daily venue changes depending on wind conditions and the competition continues today and tomorrow (Photograph: David Branchley).

Sikh plot 'foiled by police'

Two undercover detectives foiled a plot by Sikh militants to kill Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, on a trip to Britain last October, Birmingham Crown Court was told yesterday.

The officers posed as the IRA terrorists who murdered Mr Airey Neave, the former Conservative MP, Mr Igor Judge, QC, for the prosecution, said.

Jarnail Singh Ranaana, aged 46, a company director, of Cannon Street, St. James, London, aged 31, a diver, of Worthington Street, and Parmatma Singh Marwaha, aged 44, a factory owner, of Kedleston Road, all of Leicester, deny conspiracy to murder and soliciting the undercover police to murder.

Mr Judge told the jury yesterday, after the trial started after 14 days of legal argument, that the plot had a simple but fundamental flaw in that the three men were not prepared to do the killing themselves.

The detective constables, identified as Tom B and Ian S, posed as gunmen prepared to do the killing, Mr Judge said.

Mr Judge said the motive for the attempted killing was political, linked with militants in Punjab seeking an independent Sikh state called Khalistan.

The plotters were prepared to pay £60,000 for the assassination and said it would be paid through Sikh contacts in the United States and Canada.

The undercover police had to make sure they controlled the operation, or there would have been a risk of the plotters seeking other people for the killing.

Mr Judge said the policemen had to use infiltration and deception as part of their tactics to get to the bottom of the plot.

The trial continues today.

Jail term for teacher who assaulted boys

A homosexual biology teacher who indecently assaulted his male pupils and taught them code-words for sex acts was jailed for four years at Croydon Crown Court yesterday.

Andrew Kingsford, aged 36, persuaded the boys, aged between 12 and 15, to go to his home.

Kingsford, of Blenheim Road, Dartford, Kent, denied 12 charges of indecent assault between March 1979 and December 1984, but was convicted of 11.

Police close to tracing bullion raid proceeds

Scotland Yard detectives tracing missing gold from the £26 million Brinks-Mat robbery believe some of the bullion was turned into cash and invested to produce profits of over £10 million (Stewart Tandler writes).

Senior officers now believe they are getting close to fresh arrests and may have traced the movement of more than £4 million from the robbery. The gold is thought to have been invested through various companies in property development in the London Docklands area.

Mr John Dellow, assistant commissioner and overall head of CID, predicted police were close to tracing the money. He was commenting on how the task force, set up 18 months ago, was instrumental in revealing a multi-million pound network of companies and accounts used to launder money for big London crim-

inals and organized crime syndicates in the United States.

Mr Dellow said: "The amounts are vast - \$112 million identified in the first few weeks of the investigation in America. In this country our inquiries are only just beginning. Over the long term there are going to be many arrests."

Police tracing the Brinks-Mat proceeds were led to accounts in the Isle of Man, British Virgin Islands, Bermuda, Anguilla, Hong Kong, Singapore, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Switzerland and the City of London. Hundreds of shell companies and accounts are thought to have been used for cover.

The Yard's work inspired an American investigation called Operation Man by the Drug Enforcement Agency, which has already led to seven key arrests and forecasts that many more will follow.

Contraception Women must take male pill

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The most likely male contraceptive pill is one that the female partner will have to swallow, according to one of Britain's leading specialists in the development of new contraceptives.

Professor Stephen Jeffcoate was addressing the XIVth Current Fertility Symposium, the meeting yesterday at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, in London.

The greatest chance of success was with a drug that acted when sperm was at its most vulnerable stage of maturation, after ejaculation, in the female genital tract, he said, "so it would have to be the female who has to take the male pill". That would not come before the year 2000, he added. Professor Jeffcoate, from the Chelsea Hospital for Women, was explaining why so little progress was being made in producing a male pill.

The different ideas for halt-

ing sperm production rested on interfering in various ways with the normal levels of the hormone LHRH (luteinizing hormone release hormone) that regulated the process. However, other hormones, including the androgens which were the source of male sex drive, were also suppressed.

So a contraceptive that reduced LHRH would need accompanying with androgen supplements. Another possibility was to use a compound that could enter the testes and neutralize the sperm.

However, a powerful biological barrier exists to prevent potentially harmful molecules from passing from the blood into the testes. Substances that could cross the barrier were likely to have wide side-effects for both partners.

Professor Jeffcoate said that left post-testicular methods, or stopping sperm working,

Among the technical reasons he gave was that doctors knew much less about the reproductive physiology of the male than of the female.

He also blamed under-funding of research, in spite of a recent increase in interest, and lack of interest from the pharmaceutical industry.

He divided the search for the male oral contraceptive into two main approaches: either prevention of the production of sperm, or interference with its function. Some agents had both effects.

But the first approach, of suppressing spermatogenesis, whether by ingesting a steroid pill or a method of vaccination, had several drawbacks. The object of suppressing sperm numbers of 100,000 a minute, compared with one ovum a month, completely or to very low levels was an uncertain process.

The different ideas for halt-

Portfolio Winners will go on holiday

Three readers share yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000.

Mrs Yvonne Brown, aged 52, an audit clerk from Hitchin, Hertfordshire, has played the Portfolio Gold game "on and off" for the past two months.

"I filled in my coupon so early in the morning that I was not sure that I had got it right. So I phoned in to check and found that I was a winner."

Asked how she intended spending her prize money, Mrs Brown said: "Boringly on a new kitchen. Interestingly on a holiday."

Mrs Hilary Parsons, aged 37, a single mother from Chelmsford, in Essex, has played the Portfolio Gold game since it started.

Mrs Parsons said she would spend her winnings on a holiday in Canada.

The other winner is Mr M Bland from Clifton, Bristol.

Readers who wish to play the game, can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold,
The Times,
PO Box 40,
Blackburn,
BB1 6AJ.



Mrs Parsons, who plans to visit Canada

Man killed by cat bite

A man who was bitten by a cat died from a "chance in a million" infection because drugs he was taking for diabetes and arthritis lowered his resistance to a germ most cats have in their mouths.

At a Manchester inquest, a verdict of misadventure was recorded on Mr Ronald Foster, aged 55, of Mainwood Road, Timperley, Cheshire, who died a day after being bitten on the wrist.

Charity tackles child abuse

By Tim Jones

Children who suffer from Britain's "secret crime" of sexual abuse will soon be able to make free telephone calls for help to a new charity.

Details of "Childline", which starts next Thursday, will be explained by Esther Rantzen when she presents, *Childwatch* on BBC 1. The programme will include details of the most extensive national child commissioned on child cruelty.

It discloses that in every age group, one child in 10 suffered some form of cruelty involving emotional, physical or sexual abuse.

Views of the *That's Life*

programme have sent in 3,000 letters describing their experiences. One woman wrote: "I was never frightened of walking home alone in the dark or of being raped or mugged. I knew what was waiting for me at home was infinitely worse than that."

Miss Rantzen described them as "the most anger-making reading of my life". The case histories include sexual abuse by fathers, uncles and male lodgers.

The main perpetrators of sexual abuse are fathers, and 87 per cent of all abusers come from within the family circle of relatives and friends.

According to the programme, current law amounts to a "molesters' charter" because accusations of sexual abuse cannot usually be proved without corroboration, which is by its very nature lacking from abuse committed behind closed doors.

Any child in Britain suffering physical, emotional or sexual abuse will be able to ring 0800 1111 free of charge and obtain expert help.

Sir George Jefferson, chairman of British Telecom, made sure that Childline is the only linkline with an eight-digit number.

Bamber evidence 'a mess'

Vital prosecution evidence about a gun silencer in the trial of Jeremy Bamber, who is accused of murder, was "a mess", his defence counsel said yesterday.

Mr Geoffrey Rivlin was continuing his summing up in the trial in which Bamber denies shooting dead his adoptive parents Neville and June, both aged 61, sister Sheila Caffell and her twin sons, aged six.

The prosecution claims that Sheila could not have killed herself as she could not have fired the murder weapon with the silencer on.

The silencer was off the gun when the bodies were found but was discovered later at the home, White House Farm, Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Essex.

Mr Rivlin said the evidence did not disprove that Sheila may have killed everyone with the silencer on and then taken it off to kill herself.

The judge, Mr Justice Drake, is to begin his summing-up this morning.

Rush for cut-price holidays

Telephone lines to travel agents were jammed and staff kept busy yesterday as people rushed to buy £29 holidays to Spain next year and take up other bargain offers.

Luna Poly, one of Britain's largest travel agency chains, said that more than 2,000 holidays were sold in the first two hours of business.

The greatest demand was at Skytours, who were offering several hundred deals of £29 for a week in Spain and £39 in Greece.

The offers were part of a £10 million sale of package bargains by Skytours, Thomson Holidays, which owns Skytours, said that 25,000 bargain holidays were snapped up in the first hour after travel agents opened yesterday.

Mr Roger Peverett, Luna Poly's marketing director, said: "The flood of cheap holidays has boosted an already buoyant summer market with bookings up 60 per cent on this time last year."

A fillip for females at the top

The "average female boss" in Britain is better at her job than the "average male boss", according to Mr Bryan Nicholson, who is chairman of the Manpower Services Commission.

He will today tell a "Women on the Board" conference in London, organised by the Institute of Directors, that it is time for a "quiet revolution" by women to ensure they obtain better opportunities at work.

He says the promotion system is so heavily stacked against women that they have to be better to beat it. As a result, women who make it to the top "are first class ambassadors of their sex".

Mr Nicholson does not envy the woman's role. He says: "They are constantly under the male microscope."

They are perpetually judged not only on their managerial qualities but on their sexuality and even their clothes and looks.

Solicitor in 'luxury suite for informers'

A solicitor accused of handling the proceeds of Britain's biggest robbery is believed to be living in a police station luxury suite built to house "supergrass" or informers (Michael McCarthy writes).

Mr Michael Reiton, of the Westminster firm of Lynn, Reiton and Co, appeared in court on Wednesday charged with dishonestly handling £2.7 million, the proceeds of stolen gold bullion. The charge relates to the £26 million Brinks-Mat robbery at Heathrow in 1983.

Mr Reiton, aged 48, was granted bail, but with the unprecedented condition of "living" at a police station. He is in a cell, however.

He is helping detectives investigating the robbery for up to ten hours a day, in a suite of rooms in a station in south London.

It is one of a number of such suites fitted out in selected

Police close to tracing bullion raid proceeds

Scotland Yard detectives tracing missing gold from the £26 million Brinks-Mat robbery believe some of the bullion was turned into cash and invested to produce profits of over £10 million (Stewart Tandler writes).

Senior officers now believe they are getting close to fresh arrests and may have traced the movement of more than £4 million from the robbery. The gold is thought to have been invested through various companies in property development in the London Docklands area.

Mr John Dellow, assistant commissioner and overall head of CID, predicted police were close to tracing the money. He was commenting on how the task force, set up 18 months ago, was instrumental in revealing a multi-million pound network of companies and accounts used to launder money for big London crim-

inals and organized crime syndicates in the United States.

Mr Dellow said: "The amounts are vast - \$112 million identified in the first few weeks of the investigation in America. In this country our inquiries are only just beginning. Over the long term there are going to be many arrests."

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The Yard's work inspired an American investigation called Operation Man by the Drug Enforcement Agency, which has already led to seven key arrests and forecasts that many more will follow.

A nuclear future?

damages the environment most? Which can Britain afford?

Very soon, Britain has to make a decision about nuclear power.

The Opposition want to bring it to an end, the Conservatives to press on.

But amid all the claims of the experts and the lobbyists, the relevant facts are hard to sort out.

Is nuclear power the Fifth Horseman of the Apocalypse, silent and sinister, spreading death? Or is it the cleanest, safest and cheapest means of providing for our future energy needs?

In this week's Spectator, William Shawcross talks to the people involved and takes us through the maze of conflicting argument.

Which source of energy

What difference would any change make when France has sited so many nuclear power stations so close to us?

William Shawcross supplies the necessary facts and points towards the answers.

Also in this week's Spectator, Frank Johnson recalls his heroic part in the Suez campaign (as a boy at Shoreditch Secondary Modern), while William Deedes remembers the scenes in Parliament at the time.

And Nigel Dempster gloomily predicts that Private Eye will be finished before the end of the decade.

It's powerful stuff, for only a pound.

THE SPECTATOR

Anglo-Irish agreement 'is bringing benefits'

N IRELAND

The Anglo-Irish agreement was bringing benefits to all sections of the community in Northern Ireland, although there was a need for the Unionists to understand the merits and advantages of it, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during question time exchanges in the Commons.

He was critical of the fact that all Unionist MPs, with the exception of Mr Enoch Powell, boycotted the House.

Mr Michael Latham (Rutland and Melton, C) said that many people on this side of the water, including this Parliament, wished the agreement well and did not regard themselves as puppets of the Americans, stooges or brain-washed collaborators.

Mr King: The continuing evidence of the operation of the conference shows there is scope for closer co-operation and there are benefits to be gained from the objective of the agreement which is both reassurance of the majority community and reassurance of the minority community of their rights within the province. That has always been my position and these are objectives which all people of good will should share.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab): Is it not time we saw some real economic improvements in Northern Ireland? Perhaps he will recognize the abysmal economic situation there.

One of the latest victims of sectarian murder was Mr Raymond Moore, a young man who left behind four children. He was an active member of my union and was slaughtered as he came down the hall of the church where he was an active member of the church.

On Saturday there is to be a trade union conference in Belfast to deal with all forms of sectarianism. Does he wish it well?

Mr King: I strongly applaud the initiative of the trade unions in seeking to give a lead against sectarian intimidation and violence from whichever quarter it may come.

I hope the whole House will join me in deploring any instances of sectarian violence, of which there have been far too

many in recent months, and any speeches that may incite what is obviously a serious and charged situation and which all too easily in Northern Ireland can result in sectarian outrages from both sides of the community.

New investment in the province included inward investment last week by a Japanese company setting up new operations. This and substantial investment in existing plants was the encouraging other side of the picture not always so widely reported.

Mr David Nellist (Coventry, South-East, Lab) said the reality was that the backlash against the agreement continued to claim that 4,000 Catholic and Protestant DHSS workers had staged a united strike against intimidation and that on Saturday the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions was to hold a conference to unite workers.

Mr King: I applaud the way workers, including those in the DHSS, have refused to be intimidated by paramilitary groups and have stood against intimidation from whichever extreme it might come.

Sir John Begg-Davies (Epping Forest, C): Many of us feel that the sectarian murders and the intimidation are the consequence of the agreement. Since the minister has spoken of benefits to follow, will he say how long we have to wait for those benefits?

Mr King: It does not do him credit and the respect I have for him and his knowledge, for example, of the security situation to suggest that there can be an overnight or instant improvement.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, OUP): What does he regard as the prospect for the European Convention against Terrorism, the ratification of which was one of the promises which accompanied the making of the agreement?

Mr King: There is a debate taking place in the Dail the outcome of which will be significant in terms of the further progress of that ratification. I hope it will go forward shortly and we get it established. The Taoiseach and Irish Government have made clear their commitment to do just that.

Mr Sean Mallon (Newry and Armagh, SDLP) said there had



Mr Enoch Powell (left) and Lord Orr-Ewing were among today's speakers in Parliament.

been 56 fatalities as a result of paramilitary activity in the year subsequent to the signing of the agreement, compared with 116 in the year subsequent to Sunningdale.

Of the 37 people who were not members of the security forces or the Provisional IRA killed in that period, most were killed by "loyalist" paramilitary groupings.

Mr King said he could confirm those figures. The level of violence was higher than it was last year, but that was part and parcel of the determined efforts from two parts of the community deliberately to seek to exploit the situation.

Mr Michael Meadowcroft (Leeds West, L) asked what evidence there was that the agreement was achieving greater acceptance among the people of Northern Ireland.

Mr King said he recognized that there was not acceptance and enthusiasm among the majority community.

Among the minority community there was recognition of the determined effort made, which was part of the purpose of the agreement, to ensure that their entitlements should be recognized and appreciated.

There was a need for a much better understanding by the Unionist community of the merits and advantages which could flow from the agreement.

Mr King said he was anxious to show ways in which things were being developed.

Obviously transport costs were common to the whole of the island in terms of being competitive in world markets. It was important to have an efficient transport system across the Irish Sea. Developments in this field and others were being examined closely.

Mr Jeremy Hayes (Harlow, C) said that Mr King should warn those people who were toying with the prospect of putting the bully boys on the streets of Belfast on the anniversary of the agreement.

"They will be worthy only of the contempt of those they claim to represent," Mr King said.

Mr King: I share the concern about some of the methods of the opposition exercised by some in their hostility to the Anglo-Irish agreement. I have made clear my own support and my own belief in the union.

That union is made more secure by virtue of the recognition of the principle of consent: that the union cannot be affected against the wishes of a majority in Northern Ireland.

Tory chief storms out of chamber

Allegations made by Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington, Lab) about interference with witnesses in the case brought by two Conservative MPs against the BBC would be answered immediately outside the Commons chamber, Mr Norman Tebbit, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and chairman of the Conservative Party, said before walking out while noisy exchanges on the subject continued.

Mr Campbell-Savours had applied for an emergency debate on what he said was the need for an inquiry into evidence of such interference and The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) had refused to grant the application.

Mr Tebbit then said: The allegations which Mr Campbell-Savours has made, not to the police but under the cloak of privilege, will be answered immediately by me outside without the benefit of the cover of privilege.

Mr Tebbit left the chamber, the first of a series of points of order arising from the unsuccessful application was already being made.

The case, settled out of court this week, was a libel action brought by Mr Neil Hamilton (Tatton, C) and Mr Gerald Howarth (Cannock and Burnwood, C) against the BBC concerning a Panorama programme, *Maggie's Militant Tendency*.

Mr Campbell-Savours quoted from what he said was a letter to Mr John Gummer, then chairman of the Conservative Party, in November 1984 from the national Young Conservatives. He said the letter claimed that the legal officer at Conservative Central Office, who he had since discovered was Mr David Mitchell, wanted the account by a member of a Conservative delegation which visited Berlin to adjust his version of events or lie low. Information had also been leaked.

"I was given this letter," Mr Campbell-Savours said, "by a person close to the internal workings of Conservative Central Office. I am informed that a tape recording between Mr Mitchell and a witness might be available to me."

"This is an important matter because the activities of Mr Mitchell, who is head of the legal office at Conservative Party headquarters have placed him in contravention of the law. It is a common law misdemeanor to obstruct, pervert or defeat the course of justice."

He said there should be a debate on this issue so that the Attorney General could answer demands for an inquiry.

'Shoot-to-kill' report on RUC delivered

The first section of the report of the inquiry into the alleged "shoot-to-kill" policy of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, begun by Mr John Stalker and completed by Mr Colin Sampson, was delivered to the RUC's Chief Constable yesterday, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during Commons questions.

He would make a statement to the House as soon as possible after the second section of the report had been submitted.

Whitelaw apologizes for breach of rules

By Sheila Gunn Political Staff

Lord Whitelaw, Lord President of the Council and deputy Prime Minister, has been forced to apologize to Lord Kennet, an SDP peer, for breaking the rules of the House of Lords.

Lord Kennet, the Alliance's foreign affairs and defence spokesman, was refused permission last week by Lord Whitelaw, as leader of the Lords, to put down a private notice question calling for a statement on Reykjavik.

Instead the Government acceded to a later request from the Labour Party for a statement.

Under standing orders Lord Kennet had the right to appeal to the chamber. But when he tried such an appeal last week Lord Whitelaw did not let him proceed.

The breach of the conven-

Thatcher blames seamen's union for shipping loss

PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister angered Labour MPs by placing the main blame for the decline in British shipping at the door of the National Union of Seamen for demanding more money and for maintaining restrictive practices.

The Government was accused of indifference to the plight of the Merchant Navy, but Mrs Thatcher said the Government was considering its position.

Mr Robert Wareing (Liverpool, West Derby, Lab) said during Prime Minister's questions: One of the factors causing a deficit in the balance of payments is the loss to this country's trade in terms of shipping.

In 1979 we had 1,200 vessels. Now we are down to 600. We had 80,000 seafaring jobs. Now we have 40,000. What is the Government going to do about it?

Mrs Thatcher: One of the problems with shipbuilding the world over is that every country was giving subsidies and there are now two years' supply of ships swamping the boats.

One problem is that the National Union of Seamen prices itself out of jobs (Labour shouts of "Rubbish" and some Conservative cheers).

They always react in the same way to the truth. They pride themselves out of employment. Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP): The problem of the shrinkage of the merchant service is that our competitors are assisting their merchant fleets as against the indifference of the British Government.

Will she take on board the effect if the Merchant Navy is not given assistance?

Mrs Thatcher: We are considering it carefully, but the main reason is that the National Union of Seamen demand salaries with restrictive practices which price themselves out of British shipping.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, had earlier attacked government economic policy on the basis of the day's balance of payments statistics. He said that while they showed a welcome improvement on the previous month, they were still in deficit this year for the first time since Britain had started receiving oil money.

The manufacturing trade figures are the worst in history. Does she think she can combat this situation by raising interest rates, industrial costs and increasing home payments since that is the only economic policy she now has?

Mrs Thatcher: The balance of trade figures today are better than last month's (Labour laughter).

Exports have risen, which is good. One of the problems of securing a very good balance consists in keeping unit costs down and the biggest aggravating factor is unit pay costs which are rising faster than they are elsewhere.

Mr Kinnock wanted to know whether the Prime Minister was announcing her intention of adopting some form of incomes control. Government had imposed restriction on demand and put massive costs on industry by its policy of high interest rates.

Mrs Thatcher said that imports had risen because there was no restriction on demand.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, denied a claim that the figures given to him (Mr McNamara) by Mr King's department about the increased violence in the 11 months after the signing of the Anglo-Irish accord, compared with the figures for the year before the accord, showed no real, significant increase apart from injuries.

In terms of shootings and bombings they showed a marked decrease so, despite a hysteria from the extreme Provisionals and the extreme Unionists, there had been no material worsening of security.

Mr King said it was true that in certain areas killings were at a level which was not acceptable for the whole of last year. Against that, they were lower than some years ago. But he did not take any comfort for that because the figures were far too high.

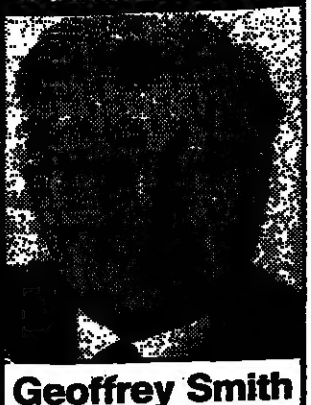
The unmitigated efforts of the security forces continue to achieve results, he told MPs earlier.

So far this year, 521 people had been charged with serious offences and 170 weapons, 15,700 rounds of ammunition and 3,400 pounds of explosives had been recovered.

Mr King: On the last part, of course, the Irish Minister, who is not a British Minister, would dream of claiming any such thing.

In respect of any individual case this is a matter for the law officers and the prosecuting authorities. The Attorney General is to issue a statement in this particular connection.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

How far does the latest Liberal statement on defence policy restore the damage inflicted by the Eastbourne conference? The most recent opinion polls confirm that the Alliance is unlikely to be taken seriously until that has been done.

The statement's essential merit is that it provides a basis for agreement with the SDP without asking either the Social Democrats in general or David Owen in particular to compromise their fundamental positions.

Dr Owen's basic requirement has always been that the Alliance should be committed in principle to maintaining the British deterrent unless and until an international disarmament settlement makes this no longer necessary.

Clear enough on principle

This is now accepted in the Liberal statement as it was not in the Alliance Joint Communiqué which was issued after the report declared that "no decision on whether and, if so, how British nuclear weapons should be maintained beyond Polaris can properly be made except in the light of" four unknown factors.

The Liberal statement is not so equivocal. "We would," it says, "maintain (with whatever necessary modernization) our minimum nuclear deterrent until it can be negotiated away as part of a global arms negotiation process."

This is clear enough on the point of principle, though it does not say how the principle should be applied when modernization is required.

I believe that is not only reasonable, but sensible. An opposition party ought to tell the country whether it would keep a British deterrent, but only in office - with all the technical assessments and the financial costs - could it be certain of the best means of doing so.

"We are not going to fight the election on particular weapon systems," David Steel wisely remarked at the press conference on Wednesday evening. The weakness of the statement is that it does not follow this line of reasoning quite consistently. Rather than staying entirely clear of the argument over weapon systems, it declares dogmatically: "we would cancel Trident."

There will be no conflict with the SDP here. Dr Owen has said the same thing all too often. But if the Alliance does find itself sharing power after the next election it may discover that by then there is no credible alternative to a reasonable policy.

They say emphatically that the Alliance would both maintain a minimum deterrent and abandon Trident may prove absurd.

The Liberal statement is more modest than the two Davids were a little while ago about European nuclear co-operation. But I doubt if there has been any change of substance. The European minimum deterrent was always dressed up to be more than it was in the hope of making a continued British deterrent more acceptable to the Liberal conference.

Public will have to be convinced

That attempt having failed, European co-operation is now presented in a truer light. The two Davids were talking about Anglo-French collaboration on such things as targeting and procurement, but joint operational control of any successor to Polaris was never contemplated. All that has now been lost from the concept is the camouflage.

But if the British public is to be convinced by the Liberal statement, it will have to be persuaded not only that the policy is reasonable but also that it is truly accepted by the Liberal Party and that the Alliance is therefore united.

The only way of demonstrating this is to call a special Liberal assembly. As a general rule it would be better for Alliance policy to be ratified by the selected candidates of both parties. But only the body that rejected the previous statement of policy can give legitimacy to the new one.

If it is approved conclusively, the Alliance would then have a defence policy that should serve its purpose for the election campaign.

Whether it could also form the basis of agreement with either of the main parties if there is a hung Parliament after the election is another matter. Labour would not want to maintain the deterrent and the Conservatives would not wish to join the Liberal.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Public Trustee and Administration of Funds Bill, remaining stages.

An employee suffering from stress can be detrimental to a company's performance

Take a business executive, apply the physical and mental pressures that go hand in hand with working in today's competitive business world, and watch what happens.

According to an increasing body of evidence, the way in which the stress factor affects employees will determine the difference between a company's success or stagnation.

BUPA believes that learning to recognise and cope with problems such as stress should be as much a part of company health care as a health insurance scheme.

This is why we are currently sponsoring a series of symposia entitled "The Management of Health" which explores current health care practice and its effect on company performance.

At yesterday's symposium on "Stress and the City", senior management from many of Britain's top companies were advised on the latest data derived from unique research commissioned by BUPA.

Statistics gathered from BUPA's health screening operations over a five year period were used to look at executive and employee health and its possible effect on company performance.

Because we believe that our findings are too crucial to be ignored, we are making the delegates' pack on "Stress and the City" available to any company with a telephone or postage stamp.

If you would like a copy, telephone Louise Watson on 01-353 5212 or write to her at BUPA, Provident House, Essex Street, London WC2R 3AX.

BUPA

Britain feels better for it.

White Paper

Shake-up in prison offence hearings may be challenged

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A new system of disciplinary hearings of the more serious offences in prisons, proposed by the Government yesterday, may be challenged by the European Convention on Human Rights, according to the Prison Reform Trust.

A White Paper says local panels of lay adjudicators, forming a single, new prison disciplinary tribunal, should deal with the offences.

But the proposals were condemned yesterday by the trust and Nacro, the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, as potentially unjust.

The White Paper is in response to the report of the Prior Committee, which wanted the tribunal to sit in panels consisting of a legally qualified chairman and two lay members.

A circuit judge would have been appointed president.

The trust told *The Times*: "We expect that the European Court will be called upon to judge whether the new disciplinary arrangements meet the

test of independence, impartiality and fairness.

"The new arrangements will not be separate from the Home Office as the Home Secretary will be appointing and training members of the new tribunals."

It says that the Government has not accepted the idea of panels chaired by legally qualified chairmen because cases reaching them will not normally be complex enough to justify such legal expertise.

Ministers are also conscious of competing demands on the pool from which judicial appointments are made.

But where there is a need for legal and procedural advice, arrangements will be made for its provision by a legally qualified clerk.

The White Paper says the Prior Committee estimated that about 80 part-time chairmen of panels would be needed to cover the 125 Prison Department establishments.

At least 300 lay members would be required — "not too

many to prevent them from gaining reasonable experience, but not too few to make the fixing of sitting times too difficult and require too much travelling."

The Government has accepted that Boards of Visitors should remain substantially unchanged.

But Nacro said: "By losing remission in disciplinary hearings, prisoners can be kept in custody for lengthy additional periods."

"To allow a non-judicial body to impose such serious penalties shows a penny-pinching disregard for basic standards of justice."

And the trust says of the disciplinary panel: "It would have no legal expertise, nor would uniform standards of justice be brought to bear in different establishments."

The Prison Disciplinary System in England and Wales (Cmd 9920; Stationery Office: £3.80).

Councillor threatens repeat of pistol shot

By Angella Johnson

The Liberal councillor who brought mayhem to an east London council meeting when he fired a starting pistol into the packed chamber was unrepentant yesterday, and said he would do so again.

Mr Pierre Royan justified terrifying councillors and officials of Hackney council because he said it was the only way he could demonstrate his objection to the ruling Labour group inviting Stan Fein representatives to attend the meeting on Wednesday night.

"I was driven to it by the extreme action taken by left-wing Labour councillors in bringing IRA killers to Hackney on the pretext that they had the support of the local Irish community."

"Initially I had tried to argue the point but when I stood up in the chamber the mayor ignored me and I was forced to take such a drastic step. If this makes them aware just how horrific violence is then it will have been a good thing."

Mr Royan, aged 27, jumped into the central arena of the chamber as a Sinn Féin representative stood to address the meeting and brandished a pistol which he fired into the air.



Mr Royan demonstrating yesterday how he fired the weapon (Photograph: Leslie Lee).

Two more shots were fired, one at the head of Mr Andrew Puddephatt, leader of the Labour group, before Mr Royan was grabbed by angry councillors and the pistol wrestled from his grasp.

It then became apparent that the starting pistol had only fired blanks. Mr Royan had bought it from a local sports shop earlier in the day for £49.

Mr Royan, who is half Irish and half Jewish, is no stranger

to controversy since his election last May for the Moorfields ward.

In July he was ejected from the council chamber after calling the mayor, Mr James Holland, a Fascist. Two days later he was again forcibly ejected after giving a Nazi salute to a Conservative councillor, Mr Joe Lobenstein, a Nazi concentration camp survivor.

This latest outburst could result in his being perma-

nently barred from Hackney Town Hall.

Labour councillors have described his actions as "madness", and are investigating whether there are any legal obstacles to such a ban.

The town hall workers belonging to the National and Local Government Officers' Association are supporting the call for a ban.

Police have not decided if charges will be brought against Mr Royan.

Bar seeks charity status for law unit

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Bar has asked the Charity Commission for charitable status for its Free Representation Unit, whereby barristers act without charge for people who cannot get legal aid, so funds can be raised to expand the service.

Last year the unit handled nearly 1,000 cases, involving £500,000 worth of claims. It operates mostly in industrial and social security appeal tribunals, although it has also taken on cases before other tribunals and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board; and is now involved in about 8 per cent of all industrial tribunal cases in the London area.

The unit has existed for its 15 years on a small annual budget of £15,000 from the Bar's governing body.

But the increase is far from enough, according to an article in this month's Bar magazine, *Counsel*. "To put it bluntly, the unit is a victim of its own success," the article says.

So long as the Government refuses to provide legal aid for representation at administrative tribunals, those who cannot afford legal representation and who have no trades unions to support them either go unrepresented or come to an agency like the unit."

More Nazis living in Britain claim

By Nicholas Beeston

The Nazi-hunter who unearthed the names of 17 alleged war criminals living in Britain, gave a warning yesterday that further suspects "would definitely" be traced to this country in the near future.

Mr Eliahu Zuroff, the director of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Jerusalem, whose research of post-war immigration documents has uncovered war criminals in Australia and now Britain, predicted that the new evidence could identify "several hundred people around the world who never dreamed they would be caught."

On Wednesday, Rabbi Marvin Hier, Dean of the Los Angeles-based centre, handed a dossier to Mr Donald Balintyne, the British Consul-General in Los Angeles, containing the names and some addresses of 17 people suspected of the death of thousands of Latvians and Lithuanians. All the suspects are thought to be alive.

The names have not been released and the dossier was being sent yesterday to the Prime Minister and Home Office.

A spokesman at the Home Office said he could not comment about the disclosures until the papers arrived and were inspected. It is believed to be the first time that alleged Nazis have been traced to Britain.

Rabbi Hier made it clear to the Government that he wants the suspects tried or deported to Israel.

A spokesman for the Israeli Embassy said that it was not always Israeli policy to seek the extradition of war criminals, if they were tried abroad.

Mr Zuroff said that the suspects emigrated to Britain between 1945 and 1950 in the flood of post-war refugees that swept over Europe.

Some of the former Nazis had changed their names and attempted to cover their true identities, but "some were so confident of never being discovered they are still using their real names".

The suspects, who include an SS battalion commander, are accused of taking part in the slaughter of 220,000 Lithuanian Jews and 95,000 Latvian Jews.

Falklands war goods for auction

By Robin Young

Three shiploads of vehicles and heavy duty machinery used to construct airfields in the Falkland Islands are covering seven acres of Liverpool dockland waiting to go under the hammer.

Ninety per cent of the Falklands war surplus went out new to the islands in 1983. Some of it has come back unused, having been kept in reserve throughout the construction work on the Port Stanley airstrip and the all-purpose airport on Mount Pleasant.

Mr Roger Rimmer, managing director of Boundary Plant, Liverpool, is co-ordinating the sale. Buyers are expected to come from all over the world.

Mr Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP who has been a critic of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Falklands policy, said that he would be raising the issue in Parliament.

"I have been to Liverpool, and I understand that £10 million is an underestimate of the value of this machinery."

"If half the money that has been spent on this military requirement had been devoted to inner-city areas, the centres of cities like Liverpool, Leeds and Glasgow would look a lot better for it."

13 accused over £20m drugs ring

Thirteen people were charged at a court in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, yesterday with running an international drug ring which handled 4.5 tons of marijuana worth nearly £20 million.

Police in Florida received a tipoff from Scotland Yard officers who were investigating the Brinks-Mat robbery at Heathrow in 1983. In London, a married couple, the latest to be charged in connection with the £26 million Brinks-Mat gold bullion raid, were remanded in custody for a week at Horseferry Road court yesterday.

John Elcombe, aged 39, and his wife, Anne, aged 38, antique dealers of Higham House, Old Chatham Road, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent, are charged with dishonestly receiving £710,000 cash proceeds of stolen gold bullion.

24 charged in cement case

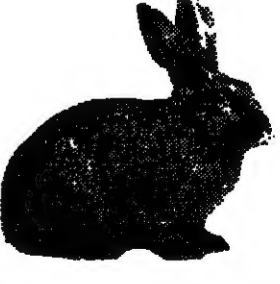
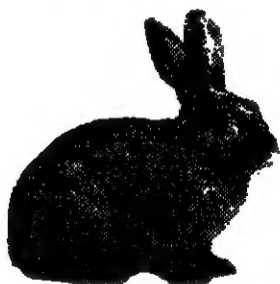
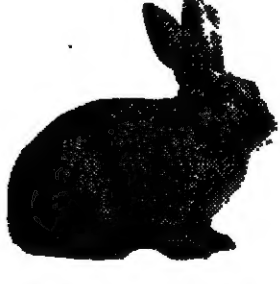
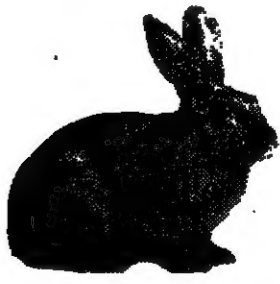
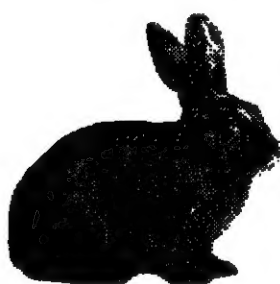
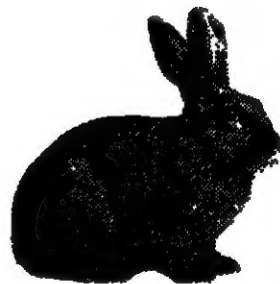
Twenty-four employees of the Blue Circle Cement Company accused of conspiracy, were remanded on bail until November 20 at West London Magistrates Court yesterday.

They are all accused of conspiring to steal cement from the company.

OUR GROWTH RATE IS WORTH RABBITING ON ABOUT.

1980
450,000 POLICIES

1986
1 MILLION POLICIES



Rabbit rabbit rabbit tremendous growth rate rabbit rabbit. Rabbit 1986, rabbit rabbit best rabbit yet.

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Rabbit rabbit independent financial adviser rabbit rabbit rabbit. He'll give you all the rabbit rabbit rabbit.

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Tote wins court ban on private pools firm

Britain's first private-enterprise horse racing pools firm was closed down by a High Court judge yesterday.

Mr Justice Potts granted the Horserace Totalisator Board (the tote) an injunction banning Atlantic Racing Pools of Liverpool from organizing a pool on any recognized horse race.

The injunction was granted after a 45-minute private hearing in London at which its lawyers argued that the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963 gave the tote a complete monopoly on racing pools.

Mr Stephen George, aged 24, the chairman of Atlantic Racing, referring afterwards to the tote's own short-lived racing pool, which closed down after 31 weeks in 1973, said: "They have shut us down because they cannot do it themselves."

He said the pool had attracted as many as 3,500 coupons a week and had been launched with his own savings of £2,000 and £7,000 from his partner, Mr Simon Formby, aged 27, the managing director of Atlantic Racing.

He said: "Before we started we were both on the dole. Now we will have to close down."

Britain gets tough in drive for cheaper European air fares

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Britain is preparing to get tough in its attempts to gain greater freedom for airlines within Europe.

Mr Michael Spicer, the Aviation Minister, issued a warning yesterday that he would use existing legislation to force British airlines to comply with competition laws.

His statement reflected the Government's growing frustration with the lack of progress towards liberalization of air fares and routes within Europe.

Talks aimed at improving competition and allowing lower fares within Europe appear to be floundering as some nations opposed to liberalization continue to fight a package of measures being put to the European Council of Ministers.

But Britain is determined to try to reach some kind of agreement while still president

of the council, and is pushing hard for the package to be adopted at the next planned meeting of ministers on November 10.

"It represents a realistic first step towards total liberalization," Mr Spicer told an *Air Finance Journal* conference in London.

"Unless the council can agree to it or something very like it we will have no alternative but to introduce our own machinery, under Article 88 of the Treaty, to scrutinize and rule on air transport competition issues in the Community," he said in a reference to the Treaty of Rome.

Mr Spicer said agreement could be reached to allow airlines to offer a greater choice of cheap fares, including those that would no longer have the traditional highly restrictive requirement that

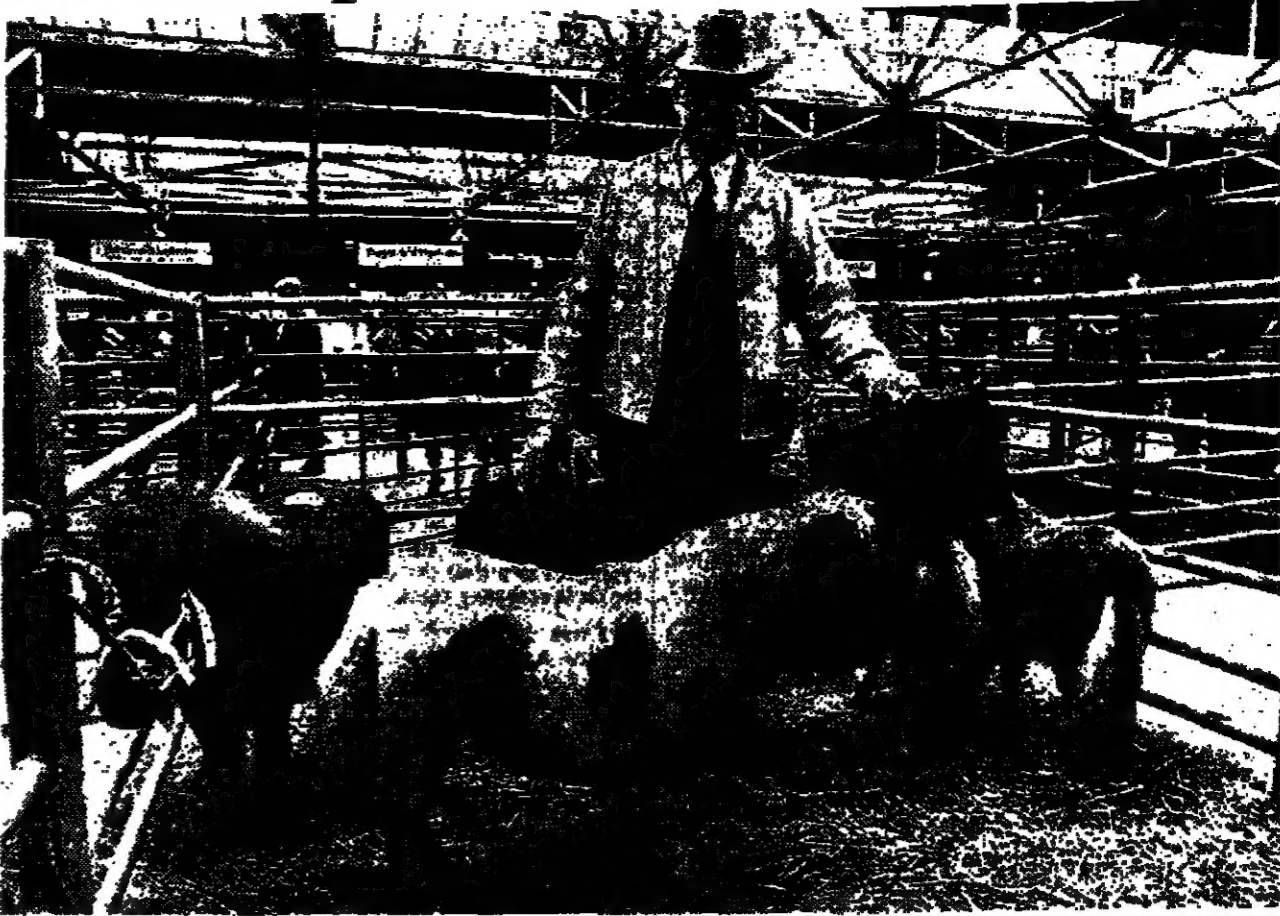
people must stay a Saturday night.

But, he said, "there is no question of the United Kingdom agreeing to any arrangement which does not satisfy the principle that airlines must be able to compete on major routes. We are not going to sign an agreement which we consider does not satisfy this basic principle."

"The alternative, and, in our view, much less preferred approach, will be for the European Commission and individual member states to apply with their full rigour the competition rules of the Treaty of Rome."

Hard evidence existed of the benefits of greater competition in air fares and of liberalization. "The challenge now is how best to move towards a genuine internal market for air travel within the whole of the European Community," Mr Spicer said.

Shetland ponies a hit with Americans



Mr D M Wolfe Jr, from North Carolina, with some of the nine Shetland ponies he bought for £7,000 when he attended Britain's biggest sale of the animals at an auction in Reading this week.

Mr Wolfe, manager of a stud farm for miniature horses, also bought the smallest pony for export, which stood only 21 inches high (Angela Johnson writes).

More than 280 ponies from all over the country came under the hammer, raising about £43,000. They will either be used for breeding or show.

The ponies, including 27 from the Shetland Isles, appeared in the central ring at Reading cattle market. Six hundred buyers from Europe and the United States had

been attracted for the event.

The most expensive buy was a 10-year-old chestnut mare which was bought by a stud farmer in the Netherlands for £25 guineas (£366).

A black-and-white Skewbald foal born in May gained the highest bid for a filly and went to a breeder in Haverford West, Wales, for 88 guineas.

Thimbleby and Shorlandthe

organizers, said they were delighted with the success of the eighteenth Shetland Pony Show.

A hoarse-voiced Mr Michael Kimber, who had shouted the biddings from 10 am until 4 pm, whispered: "It was a great day because there were so many exceptionally good ponies on show."

Photograph: Mark Pepper

Fair ban after cruelty protests

The traditional annual sale of wild Exmoor ponies at next week's Bampton Fair in Devon has been banned for the first time in 128 years after protests from animal welfare groups.

The ban comes after a battle between animal protection groups, the town council, and the auctioneers who have been accused of selling dying ponies and keeping them in sub-standard facilities.

Mrs Dee Ivey, a committee member of the Horse and Pony Protection Association and the Dartmoor Livestock Protection Society, said she was delighted with the ban.

"For many years animal protection societies have been very concerned about the inadequate facilities for penning, selling, sorting and loading the ponies," she said.

Mrs Ivey said that 99 per cent of the ponies sold at the fair had never had contact with humans. "Then they are suddenly transported in lorries which terrifies them."

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals described the accommodation of ponies at previous annual sales as "dangerous".

Bampton Fair is one of the institutions of the West of England, and the first mention of it in history appears to be during the reign of Henry III.

Tunnel 'disaster' for Waterloo

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Channel tunnel will lead to an extra 20 million passengers a year passing through Waterloo station, five million more than the annual total for Gatwick airport, MPs were told yesterday.

The result would be the devastation of that area of south-east London.

Lambeth council, giving evidence to the select committee examining the Channel Tunnel Bill, called for a full public inquiry before the station was approved as the tunnel's London terminal.

The council also claimed that British Rail had failed to consult it on plans which include a substantial expansion of the existing station, with five new platforms, new car parks, new customs and immigration facilities, and a widening of railway lines out of the station. The necessary land would be compulsorily purchased.

Mr Robert Coleman, chairman of Lambeth's planning committee, said that the huge influx of passengers, an increase of up to 48 per cent on present levels, would stretch

Underground services to the limit and mean an additional 23,000 taxi, car and coach arrivals daily.

Pointing to the effect on Victoria of fewer than three million ferry passengers, he said that the terminal would lead to irresistible pressure for hotels, guest houses, souvenir shops, offices, travel agents and restaurants in the vicinity, thus overturning the council's aim of giving priority to local needs.

The development "would transform the present character of the Waterloo area, and have serious adverse effects on the present community."

The select committee will next week hear more than 100 petitions from local groups and residents opposed to the use of Waterloo.

Outside the hearing Mr Coleman said: "London must be given the chance to avert what promises to be the planning disaster of the decade - only a full and proper public inquiry will allow us to do that."

BA denied flights to Botswana

British Airways has been refused a licence to fly to Botswana as part of the airline's contingency plans to beat any future air sanctions against South Africa (Our Air Correspondent writes).

The Civil Aviation Authority ruled yesterday that the airline would have to ask for a specific exemption if it wanted to mount an emergency service.

The authority has, however, granted an application by British Caledonian to fly to Gaborone, the capital of Botswana, starting next April. The authority said: "The case put forward by British Airways for a Gaborone licence was intrinsically different from British Caledonian's in that they hoped never to have to use it."

The ruling came after a week-long public inquiry, much of which was held in camera when British Airways had successfully argued that their evidence was too sensitive politically and economically to be heard in public.

British Airways refused to comment on the decision

MPs accused by Powell of failing in duty

Mr Enoch Powell last night accused a Commons select committee of dereliction of duty in failing to investigate his claims of American involvement in Ireland's affairs (Martin Fletcher writes).

The Ulster Unionist MP, who suggested last weekend that Americans were behind the 1979 assassination of Mr Airey Neave, told a meeting in Co Down the Foreign Affairs committee had been "astonishingly backward in investigating these matters".

Sir Anthony Kershaw, chairman of the committee, yesterday described the conspiracy theories as "absolute balderdash".

Advertising war Arch rivals at loggerheads

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

Britain's leading advertising men have taken a break from selling toothpaste to take jobs at each other.

Saatchi and Saatchi, Britain's largest agency, with billings in 1985 of £180 million, yesterday took out full-page advertisements in *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Independent* to respond to the assault launched on it the day before by J Walter Thompson, the second largest agency with billings of £155 million.

"Being attacked by JWT is like being savaged by a dead sheep," Saatchi said, pointing out that it has won 46 major creative awards in the last three years, compared with five won by Thompson.

The advertisement warned Thompson of the golden rule in the use of "knocking" copy: "Don't do it if you're vulnerable yourself."

The advertisement, believed to have cost Saatchi about £40,000, was in reply to a £16,000 Thompson advertisement in *The Financial Times* on Wednesday, in which it claimed to be growing faster than Saatchi.

It said Thompson had brought in £45.2 million in additional billings this year, against Saatchi's £28 million.

In a reference to Saatchi's recent problematic acquisition of the Ted Bates agency, which has resulted in a sharp fall in Saatchi's share price, Thompson reminded its

arch rival that advertising is about "selling, not buying".

Mr Jeremy Bullmore, chairman of Thompson, said yesterday that he ordered the advertisement to be run "because we're getting business on merit, not with a cheque-book."

"If our advertisement was like being savaged by a dead sheep, one wonders why they spent £40,000 responding to it."

He also claimed that the dead sheep line was not even original, saying it was first used by Mr Denis Healey, when he was Chancellor of the last Labour Government, in reply to a parliamentary attack by Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Youth denies assault and knife charges

Mr Ben Gillick, aged 18, was remanded on bail at East Dorset Magistrates' Court, Dorset, yesterday on charges of assault and possessing an offensive weapon.

Mr Gillick, of Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, denied assaulting Mr Scott Crowson and also carrying a sheath knife last August 23.

A charge against Mr Crowson, aged 18, of West Walton, Norfolk, of assaulting Mr Richard Backer, a friend of Mr Gillick, was withdrawn.

Heart death

A heart-lung transplant patient, Mrs Veronica Atkinson, of Sierling Avenue, Jarrow, Tyne and Wear, died yesterday at Harefield Hospital in west London. She was 48.

WHERE TO LOOK TO FIND OUT WHAT ON EARTH'S GOING ON.

THE WORLD THIS WEEK
Made in Britain but that's where the nationalism stops. 'The World This Week' presents world events from a truly international point of view.
At 10.00 every Sunday morning, get a complete perspective on the planet you live on, without the flag waving.

HEAR
HEAR
BOO
ORDER
ORDER
RHUBARB
BLAH

A WEEK IN POLITICS
At 8.15 each Friday, new presenter Nick Ross and his team give a deeper insight into the world of politics than even a live broadcast from Westminster can.

THE BUSINESS PROGRAMME
5.15 on Sundays should be permanently fixed in the minds of all those with an interest in finance, industry and the City.
Over the weeks 'The Business Programme' will cover events like the 'Big Bang' takeover bids, in fact all the stories that make the headlines in the business world.

DIVERSE REPORTS
Each week a major political, social or economic subject is seen from an acute angle.
At 8.30 on Wednesday, will you see eye to eye or be eyeball to eyeball with your TV screen?

CHANNEL 4 NEWS
With in-depth coverage of the main story of the day, regular features on the Arts, Science and industry and its penetrating journalistic style, Channel 4 News compares favourably with an hour long read of a quality broadsheet. Catch it every evening at 7.00.

UNION WORLD
At 6.30 every Thursday, the only programme of its kind gives its weekly update on the fabric of the unions.
Even if you're not one of the nine million workers under the banner of a union, it still makes sense to say 'Aye' and watch.

4
KEEP YOUR EYE ON

WORLD SUMMARY

Soviet envoy to Iceland recalled

Reykjavik (Reuters) — The Soviet ambassador to Iceland, sidelined throughout the recent US-Soviet summit on the north Atlantic island, has been recalled to Moscow seemingly in disgrace, diplomatic sources said.

Mr Evgeny Kosarev, aged 67, apparently fell foul of the Kremlin over arrangements he made for Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to the island for his October 11-12 summit with President Reagan, they said.

The Icelandic Foreign Ministry has confirmed that Mr Kosarev is ending his posting after only two years. Officials said they were puzzled by his recall. He was expected to stay for four years. One interpretation by diplomats was that Mr Kosarev was blamed for the bad timing of Gorbachev's arrival on October 10.

Unlike President Reagan, the Soviet leader was not welcomed on arrival by the President and Prime Minister because they were busy at the formal opening of the island's parliament. Only the Foreign Minister met Mr Gorbachev at the airport.

Iranian suicide squads claimed

A dissident Iranian group yesterday claimed that Ayatollah Khomeini's regime is operating at least three terrorist centres in Iran to train suicide squads (Nicholas Beston writes).

Quoting witnesses, the National Movement of the Iranian Resistance said in a statement released in London that one camp was situated in Tehran and two others were based in Kermanshah, in the western region of the country.

The organization, which supports the former Prime Minister, Mr Shapour Bakhtiari, said the terrorist centre in Tehran was in a top-secret wing at Evin Prison. Two other camps at Kermanshah were housed at Choga Nargah and Sarab Nefar and accommodated up to 3,000 men.

Blast at Hess jail

Bonn — An explosion in an office building at West Berlin's Spandau Jail, where Rudolf Hess, the former Hitler deputy, is serving a life sentence, early yesterday caused a fire but hurt no one (John England writes).

A telephone call to a news agency in West Berlin later claimed the explosion was the work of a "Liberation Commando Rudolf Hess".

Hess, now aged 90, has been Spandau's sole prisoner for the last 20 years. The French are at present in charge of the jail.

Reactor closures

Stockholm — Sweden is now likely to close down its 12 nuclear reactors in the next 10 years as a result of the Chernobyl disaster. A report recommending the 10-year shutdown was presented yesterday to the Energy Minister, Mr Birgitta Dahl, by the State Energy Authority (Christopher Mosley writes).

If accepted by Parliament, and there is every indication it will be, 1996 will replace the present deadline of 2010 for a Swedish nuclear shutdown, as agreed in a national referendum in 1979.

Doctors go back

Dhaka — Hundreds of patients queued up at Bangladesh hospitals as doctors ended a 17-day strike following a government promise to provide jobs for all newly-qualified medical graduates, hospital sources said.

They said that during negotiations the Health Minister, Mr Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, also said he would consider demands for promotions for doctors and reopening of medical colleges, shut last week because of the strike.

More than 100 students at Dhaka and Rangpur medical colleges also ended a hunger strike yesterday. They had refused food and drink for four days in an attempt to force the Government to accept their demands.

Military studies

Peking (Reuters) — China and the United States have agreed to send armed service officers to study at each other's military schools, a Western diplomat said.

He said that Peking and Washington had confirmed a "general agreement" on the exchange during a visit to China by the US Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, earlier this month. Details of the exchange were still under discussion, he said.

Social Credit hold British Columbia

From John Best, Ottawa

The Social Credit Party (Socreds), led by a Dutch-born immigrant fighting his first election as Premier, has won an important victory in Canada's west-coast province of British Columbia.

The Socreds, a right-wing party which has held office in British Columbia for 32 of the last 35 years, took 49 seats in the 69-seat provincial legislature against 30 for the left-wing New Democrat Party (NDP).

The result on Wednesday was a personal triumph for Mr William Vander Zalm, who took over the Socred leadership with it the premier ship this July, from Mr William Bennett.

Mr Vander Zalm, aged 52, who was born in Noordwykerhout, The Netherlands, and came to Canada after the war,

campaigning on little more than his widely-acknowledged charisma and sunny smile.

The NDP, led by Mr Robert Skelly, an earnest, somewhat dour former school teacher, also fighting his first campaign as party leader, focused on such issues as heavy unemployment and cutbacks in government social programmes.

But the British Columbia voters were obviously more impressed — and definitely more entranced — by Mr Vander Zalm's sunny optimism.

In British Columbia politics has long been polarized between the hard left and hard right.

In the last provincial election, in 1983, the Socreds won 35 seats, the NDP 22 seats in a 57-seat legislature.

Police set up barricades to prevent slogan-chanting crowds blocking cars of guests returning from the palace ceremony. Eyewitnesses reported scuffles as demonstrators tried to break through the cordon.

Earlier in the day, the six-month-old Council of Ministers was dissolved.

President Ershad, a former infantry commander who trained in India, retired as army chief last August. He is the second army ruler to be elected president in the country's turbulent 15-year history, which has seen two heads of state killed and four others toppled or fired.

Reagan seeks a Californian swing

From Michael Binyon, Los Angeles

Nothing could be sweeter to President Reagan in his sixth year of office — the traditional start of a lame-duck presidency — than a spectacular political victory in his home state of California.

Not only would a Republican win in the coming Senate elections be a welcome political boost, but the capture of a long-standing Democratic seat in America's most populous and influential state would be of enormous psychological importance nationwide. And the Republicans might just do it.

At stake is the seat Senator Alan Cranston, a canny 77-year-old liberal, has held for the last 18 years — a record term for California.

Mr Ed Zschau, his challenger, is an ambitious middle-of-the-road Republican congressman, who survived internecine fighting to capture his party's nomination, and is now closing the gap with Mr Cranston.

Latest polls put him about five percentage points behind: his own campaign pollsters have just delivered him a 1.5 per cent lead, and he has the wind behind him in the hectic last two weeks of campaigning. With one of the lowest turnouts in years expected — well below 50 per cent — Republicans are hoping many Demo-



Senator Cranston: fending off challenger Mr Zschau.

cratic voters will stay at home. The issues in California boil down to the question of liberalism.

For Californians, have swung wildly from the conservatism of Governor Ronald Reagan to the trendiness of Governor Jerry Brown and are now back in a conservative mood.

Mr Zschau is making it a law-and-order campaign, emphasizing the growing concern about the changing face of California, a state where vast numbers of immigrants, especially from Mexico, Latin America and the Far East, have transformed Los Ange-

les. Fears of rising crime and new concerns over drugs have combined with a xenophobic backlash to give strength to the right wing, especially on such issues as terrorism and the death penalty.

There is overwhelming opposition to the state's Chief Justice, Judge Rose Bird, because of her persistent refusal to implement the death penalty. Mr Zschau is calling for her to be ousted and accuses Mr Cranston of backing her.

Mr Cranston, whose liberal roots go back to the 1930s when, as a young journalist, he published an unexpurgated edition of *Mein Kampf* and was sued by Hitler, has moved with the times.

Long supported by the powerful Jewish community because of his backing for Israel, he led the opposition to the arms sales to Saudi Arabia, and is making much of Mr Zschau's waverings on foreign policy issues that are important to conservatives: the MX missile, anti-satellite weapons, sanctions against South Africa, aid to the Nicaraguan Contras, and, of course, aid for Israel.

But foreign policy issues never win state elections. Polls show, and this election like so many others is orchestrated according to the polls, that Californians are most con-

cerned by illegal drugs, followed by toxic waste and law enforcement.

On the first and third, liberalism is not in vogue. On the proposal to restrict toxic waste dumping the Republicans have got out of this Democratic trap by pointing to the glaring exemptions for municipalities in the proposal. California's very size means that most campaigning is conducted on television, especially

US MID-TERM ELECTIONS

when the two candidates were in Washington during the Congressional session.

"A political rally in California," said Mr Cranston's campaign consultant, "consists of three people around a television set."

The political advertisements are sharp and often negative. Mr Cranston broadcasts the "Zschau flip-flop update" while Mr Zschau hammers his opponent's alleged softness on drugs and terrorism.

Even President Reagan's endorsement of Mr Zschau has an edge to it.

"It's not that Alan Cranston is too old," he says, "his ideas are too old."

Reagan ratifies Contra funds

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan signed documents yesterday that will establish a distribution network for \$100 million in military and non-military aid to the Nicaraguan Contras — money that the Administration hopes will raise the battered guerrilla army from its demoralized, ineffective state.

The documents, believed to include an executive order and classified national security directives, were the last ingredients necessary to set US Government money flowing again for the first time in nearly three years.

American involvement in the war against the left-wing Sandinista Government is being dramatically escalated, both by the resumption of aid and by new congressional authority to the Central Intelligence Agency to become involved in establishing covert supply lines to the rebels.

Contra leaders in the United States say the assistance will enable them to arm thousands of additional troops, boosting their numbers well beyond the current estimated level of about 10,000.

The rebel force was essentially an American creation from the outset and until Congress cleared the way for aid renewal some months ago it seemed in danger of disintegrating, with enormous social, economic and political consequences to Honduras, the poorest country in Central America, which secretly permits the rebels to live in rough jungle camps close to the Nicaraguan border.

The US has given its blessing in recent years to several private groups of former military men which raise money for the Contras and train them in guerrilla warfare. The case of Mr Eugene Hasenfus, the American mercenary captured by Nicaraguan troops this month while running guns to the Contras, has drawn attention to the Administration's policy of encouraging private military operations against the Sandinista Government.

Clandestine US-based supply operations clearly exist with official blessing, if not official involvement. Groups admitting to assisting the Contras include the World Anti-Communist League, headed by Mr John Singlaub, a retired army major-general, Civilian Military Assistance, which has sent training personnel to central America and the Air Commandos Association, based in Florida and headed by Mr Harry Adherholt, a retired Air Force general.

There is at the very minimum an arms-length relationship between those groups and the Reagan Administration. President Reagan has praised private fund-raising efforts and said he was "inclined not to interfere with them."

Other countries may be involved in aiding the rebels. An American businessman was quoted by *The New York Times* this week as saying he had been asked by Saudi Arabia to funnel funds to the Nicaraguan rebels. He said the approach was made by Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi Ambassador to the US.

He said he had been told the involvement of Saudi Arabia stemmed from the 1981 US agreement to sell it Awac radar intelligence planes. The Saudi Embassy in Washington denied any involvement.

During the past few years US intelligence officials have been well informed about what the private groups have been doing.

NEW YORK: The United States yesterday told the UN Security Council that the Hasenfus trial in Nicaragua was a "kangaroo court" and said he had been denied due process (Reuters reports).

Mrs Botha meets Russian pilot

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Mrs Elize Botha, President Botha's wife, yesterday paid a surprise visit to Mr Vladimir Novoselov, the Russian airman believed to have piloted the ill-fated plane in which President Machel of Mozambique died on Sunday.

She had been visiting disabled soldiers in a Pretoria military hospital, but made a detour to see the Russian airman in the intensive care ward. She held his hand and gave him a bowl of flowers.

Speaking from his hospital bed where he is recovering from his injuries, Mr Novoselov told a Russian-speaking South African journalist that he could not remember "too clearly" what happened, and that he blacked out just before the crash.

He did not want to talk much about the crash "in case of repercussions from the authorities" in Mozambique or the Soviet Union.

The interview was conducted during Mrs Botha's visit.

The journalist, Mr Bart Marisovich, told *The Times* that Mr Novoselov seemed "confused and frightened". He said nothing to substantiate earlier reports that he had alleged that the aircraft had been "shot at".

Although Mr Novoselov talked yesterday as if he was the pilot of President Machel's plane, the list of passengers and crew released by the Mozambique Government shows him as being the flight engineer. The captain and co-pilot of the aircraft, also Russians, died in the crash, according to Maputo.

"I hear they are blaming me for the accident. I do not think it was my fault, but I don't want to say anything in front of all the press and cameras," Mr Novoselov said.



Mrs Elize Botha, President Botha's wife, at the bedside of the Soviet pilot yesterday.

"The fact that I had to belabour the plane was a remarkable achievement. I don't know how I did it, but I managed to save the life of some of the passengers and I think that's a wonderful achievement. I can't remember too clearly what happened. I think my flying instincts must have taken over."

Mr Novoselov, who suffered head injuries and a fractured thigh in the crash, has been visited by his wife, Nadezhda, and by Mr Nikolai Karpenko, the Second Secretary in the Soviet Embassy in Maputo. Pretoria has no diplomatic relations with Moscow.

The Government's Bureau for Information announced yesterday that Soviet and Mozambican officials who are to take part in a preliminary investigation into the cause of the plane crash will arrive at the South African border town of Komatipoort from Maputo this morning.

Meanwhile, police used tear gas to break up what they said was an illegal meeting by about 1,000 students of all races, but mostly black, on the campus of the University of Witwatersrand yesterday to mourn the death of President Machel.

Japan has no intention of strengthening its present legislation to protect secret SDI technology, according to the official.

In the early stages of SDI discussions it had appeared that a new anti-espionage law would be required but the US Administration said later that would not be necessary.

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, maintains that Japan is a "paradise for spies" and is seeking to promote a new anti-espionage Bill.

Mozambique: The men in the running

10 contenders for Machel succession

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Mozambique is likely to remain for some time without a clear successor to President Machel, killed in last Sunday's plane crash, while the remaining 10 members of the Political Bureau, the highest Fretilimo party organ, jockey for position.

The picture will certainly not become any clearer, diplomats in Maputo say, until after the state funeral of President Machel, which is set for next Tuesday. All that is certain is that the new president will be one of the Political Bureau members.

There is no obvious successor. Mr Joaquim Chissano, the Foreign Minister, Mr Marcelino dos Santos, Secretary of the Permanent Commission of the People's Assembly (Parliament), Mr Mario Machungo, the Prime Minister, General Alberto Chipande, the Minister of Defence, and Mr Armando Guebuza, Minister in the President's Office, are considered to head the list of contenders.

Most observers tip Mr Chissano, who has held the foreign affairs portfolio since independence in 1975, as the front-runner.

He is now the second most senior member of the Political Bureau, and well known abroad. He was Prime Minister in the nine-month transitional government prior to independence.

A close friend of the late President, Mr Chissano is regarded as pragmatic, and not among the hard-line Marxists, but he also took no part in any of the negotiations that led to the signing of the Nkomati non-aggression ac-

cord with South Africa in 1984. That could stand him in good stead in the current climate.

The most senior man in the party hierarchy, now that Mr Machel is dead, is Mr Dos Santos. Two years older than Mr Machel, who was 53, he was one of the co-founders of Fretilimo.

As Secretary of the Permanent Commission of the People's Assembly, he holds a position that, formally, ranks immediately below the presidency in the state hierarchy.

The post of Prime Minister was created earlier this year. The man who now holds the position, Mr Machungo, is another former Minister of Economic Planning, who was sidelined after the 1983 congress. He became Governor of Zambezia province until brought back to Maputo.

In addition to being Prime Minister, he is also the senior Central Committee secretary in overall charge of economic affairs. He occupies a low position — one from the bottom — in the Political Bureau, however, and is considered to have only an outside chance of succeeding President Machel.

General Chipande is third in the party hierarchy. He was Minister of Defence once before, but after the 1983 party congress was put out to pasture as the governor of the northern province of Cabo Delgado. He was brought back to Maputo and the Defence Ministry in the April reshuffle.

A dark-horse contender for the presidency is Mr Armando Guebuza.

Pretoria says suicide to blame for cell deaths

Johannesburg — Two men have died in South African prisons in the last 24 hours, it was disclosed yesterday (Ray Kennedy writes).

Mr Xoliso Johannes Jacobs, a Coloured man, aged 20, was found hanging by his shirt from the bars of his cell at Uptington, in the Northern Cape Province. He had been detained under state of emergency regulations.

The Prisons Department said he had committed suicide and that an investigation had been ordered.

A second man, a convicted murderer who was not named, committed suicide in his death-row cell at the Pretoria Central Prison, officials said. It was not revealed how he died.

The Detainees' Parents Support Committee said yesterday it was "horrified" by Mr Jacobs' death.

A spokeswoman said: "This becomes the 80th death in police custody since 1963. We hold the police responsible."

Cairo's 99 chapters baffle importers

From Robert Fisk, Cairo

You can no longer import frozen aquarium fish into Egypt — and that's official. Nor will Egyptian Customs officials any longer allow Jerusalem artichokes, railway fog signals, travelling post offices or mechanical singing birds into the country.

Anyone who doubts this has only to read through the Minister of Economy's decree Number 333 of August 21, 1986, a new volume of import regulations of such proportions — it has 99 chapters — that businessmen are saying it could take Customs officers 99 years to understand it. Even Egyptians cannot comprehend some of the Arabic words in the text.

Cabinet Ministers laboured for 15 months to bring forth this mountain of bureaucracy, a document which says almost as much about Egypt's economic problems as any report by the International Monetary Fund.

Egypt's finances are crumbling and, like so much else in Egypt, the new decree is supposed to replace an even more frustrating system of

import restrictions under which Customs officers assessed the taxes of individual imports on a case-by-case basis as they arrived at Cairo Airport or at the Alexandria docks.

Customs authorities in Egypt — like so many other official institutions here — have long been a law unto themselves. The business community in Cairo still tells the unimproved but equally undemocratic story of how the Egyptian Air Force placed an emergency order with the US Defence Department for a spare wing to an F16 fighter-bomber. The wing, so it is said, immediately arrived at Cairo Airport — where it was duly impounded for two months while infuriated generals fought to extract it from the Customs warehouse.

It is not difficult to see why President Mubarak and his Cabinet are desperately anxious to curb imports.

They not only have to staunch the flow of hard currency out of Egypt, but they must protect the often inferior products of local industries; which is why railway bridges, rolling stock and prison

coaches can be found on the new list of import restrictions.

At first, foreign businessmen welcomed the regulations — anything, they said, would be an improvement on the cumbersome Egyptian import rationalization committees which spent months deciding the taxation to be levied on individual imports. But they have since discovered that while Customs duties, which are paid in Egyptian currency, have been lowered from a maximum of 250 per cent to 110 per cent, they are now billed at 1.35 Egyptian pounds to the US dollar — the official exchange rate — rather than the previous and concessionary 70 piastres.

They have also found that the implementation of the new laws do not match the intentions behind it. Not only are Customs officers at the airport demanding "bakshish" and other bribes at traditional rates to clear imports, but in some cases — to quote an American businessman who understandably did not wish to be named — they simply have not been trained to cope with the long lists of restrictions.

"Since August, stuff has

been piling up at the airport because the officials there are incompetent," he said.

Nor is it surprising. A glance through the massive tome with which all Egyptian Customs officers are supposed to be equipped shows that restricted goods range from the exotic to the useless.

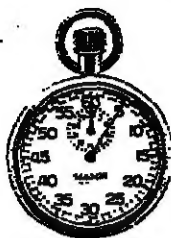
How, for instance, can one explain the ban on fireworks (110 per cent duty) and "rain rocks" (30 per cent), on leather hat-boxes (60 per cent), imported sanitary towels (85 per cent) and sunbaths (110 per cent), even on "old clothing" (30 per cent)?

The more astute observers of Egyptian bureaucracy have discovered that the origin of the import regulations is Belgium — and that in some cases, officials here have simply translated French into Arabic without considering its meaning.

Egyptian newspaper cartoonists have had a field day, depicting the lines of innocents waiting at the airport for Customs officials to translate their own instructions.

As usual, it seems, it is the foreigners who are to blame.

Fifteennomakethatadozen waystosavetimeintheoffice.



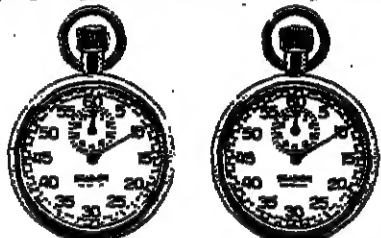
1. Matters that don't matter.

Do not waste time on trifles, for time is money. The Texan billionaire Haroldson Hunt realised this and gave up smoking cigars in his office for the simple reason that, "I wasted \$300,000 a year just in the time I spent unwrapping and lighting them".

Emulate Einstein's approach to trivial tasks. He used to wash and shave with the same soap, claiming that to use two kinds would "complicate life needlessly". (You could take this a stage further by following Frederick the Great, who went years without washing at all — but only if you have an office to yourself.)

Be quick to spot when your time is being wasted. A young composer came to play the great Rossini two pieces he had written, in order to see which he preferred.

Half-way through the first piece, Rossini interrupted him. "You need not play any more," he said. "I prefer the other one."



2. Double time.

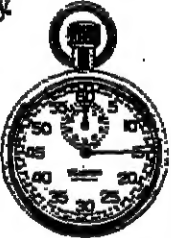
If you can do two things at once, so much the better.

Theodore Roosevelt conducted conferences while being shaved by the White House barber — and Catherine de Medici gave audiences on state business as she dressed.

It is unlikely, however, that you will match the dexterity of the playwright J. M. Barrie.

When he lost the use of his right hand, he practised writing with his left to keep up his work. Later, his right hand recovered — by which time he was so skilled with his left that from then on he used both at once, writing dialogue with his right hand and stage directions with his left.

There must be many people who would give their right arm for such a skill today.



3. The shortcomings of short cuts.

Occasionally you may find that you have to cut a few corners to get a job done on time.

The golden rule in such circumstances is simple: don't get caught.

One man who failed to get away with it was the composer and pianist Percy Grainger.

After he had given a rendering of Greig's 'Ballade' to an audience on Long Island, New York, he was accused of having shortened it. He had to admit it was true.

"I dropped six pages out of the middle so I could catch the 4.58," he said.



4. Pest control.

Taking your telephone off the hook and consigning your paging device to the depths of Britain's underground waterways will free you from many unwanted interruptions — but you will still have to deal with the inevitable plague of personal callers.

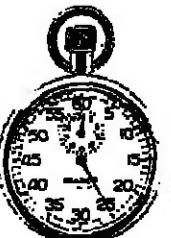
The best way of doing this was demonstrated by our ambidextrous playwright, J. M. Barrie.

A reporter once turned up uninvited on his doorstep and greeted him with, "Sir James Barrie, I presume?"

"You do," retorted Barrie, and shut the door in his face.

If such abruptness should strike you as being unacceptably rude, however, follow the example of John Ruskin, who forestalled unwelcome visitors by sending out the following circular:

"Mr. J. Ruskin is about to begin a work of great importance and therefore begs that in reference to calls and correspondence you will consider him dead for the next two months."



5. How to lick your bum.

At the end of every working day, the British field marshal

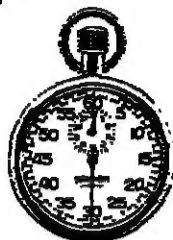
Harold Alexander would tip all the letters remaining in his In tray into his Out tray. Eventually, his assistant asked him why.

"It saves time," explained Alexander. "You'd be surprised how little of it comes back."

Yet this method of dealing with correspondence appears ultra-cautious when compared with that of Rita Hayworth.

A friend once found her working her way through a pile of letters, tearing up most of them unopened. "Stop!" he cried. "There may be cheques in there!"

"There are," replied Rita, unperturbed. "But there are bills too. I find they even up."



6. Keep your lips as shut as possible.

Procrastination, like all other long words, is the thief of time — and therefore to be avoided.

Similarly, there is no need for tautology, as it is quite unnecessary, while jargon is of non-positive utility vis-à-vis the temporal optimality of information-communication.

Aim instead for the brevity of this note sent by a schoolboy to his father:

"S.O.S. L.S.D. R.S.V.P."

(He was asking for money, incidentally.)

Or, if you are replying to a letter, bear in mind the Spartans of ancient Greece. They received a message from their enemies, the Athenians, which read:

"Unless you meet our conditions, we shall wage war on you and, if we defeat you, shall ravage your country, raze your cities to the ground, slaughter your menfolk and enslave your women and children."

The Spartans, being formidable warriors themselves, simply replied: "If..."



7. Brief briefings and short reports.

Reading and writing business reports can be a time-consuming affair — unless you are like Ike.

During his first term of office, Eisenhower appointed Arthur Burns as his first chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors.

At their first meeting, Burns suggested that he should send the president a memo outlining a plan for organising the flow of economic advice to the White House.

"Keep it short," said Ike. "I can't read."

"We'll get along fine," smiled Burns. "I can't write."

In the end, the two cut out the paperwork altogether by settling on a one-hour weekly conference of the council and president.



8. High-speed gas.

Meetings are without doubt the biggest waste of time in business life — for when all is said and done, there is always far more said than done.

Where possible, adopt the practice of Henry Ford, who used to visit his executives when a problem arose, rather than call them to his own office.

"I go to them to save time," he explained. "I've found that I can leave the other fellow's office a lot quicker than I can get him to leave mine."

Another way to speed up your meetings is to set strict time limits beforehand — whatever the importance of the person you are to talk to.

When the German Kaiser met Theodore Roosevelt after the funeral of King Edward VII, he asked him to call on him the next day "at two o'clock sharp — for I can give you only 45 minutes".

"I will be there at two," replied Roosevelt, "but unfortunately, I have just 20 minutes to give you."



9. Don't wait around.

Irving Thalberg, the U.S. film producer, was usually so busy that his working hours were double- or triple-booked — with the result that people often had to wait for hours in his ante-room before they could see him.

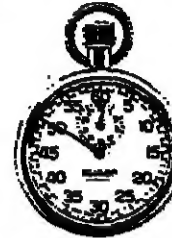
When the Marx brothers came to talk to him about 'A

Night at the Opera', however, they refused to waste time just sitting around.

Groucho, Chico and Harpo each lit two fat cigars and began puffing smoke through the crack around his door.

Eventually Thalberg rushed out. "Is there a fire?" he shouted.

"No, there's the Marx brothers," the three replied, and marched into his office.



10. Never put off till tomorrow what you can put on to someone else.

Delegating tasks to others is often the key to getting things done quickly.

(Consider Robinson Crusoe, who always got his work done by Friday.)

The quality of the finished work need not be impaired; after all, the great Flemish artist Rubens often employed less gifted men to help him out.

By the time he was thirty, he had more orders for paintings than he could cope with on his own — so he allowed others to prepare his canvasses and paint in the foundation details, while he merely applied the finishing touches.



11. Expert advice — at a price.

Do not hesitate to seek outside help when confronted with a problem which is clearly beyond you.

General Electric of America once suffered a breakdown in a complex system of machines and spent ages trying (without success) to locate the fault themselves.

Eventually, they called in Charles Steinmetz, an electrical engineer who had retired from GE some time previously.

Steinmetz spent a little while walking around, testing various parts of the machinery. Finally, he took a piece of chalk out of his pocket and marked an X on a particular spot.

The machine was stripped down — and the GE men were astonished to find that the defect lay precisely where Steinmetz had made his mark.

There is a further point to this story, though: you must be prepared to pay the price for such expertise.

When General Electric received a bill from Steinmetz for \$10,000 a few days later, they protested about the amount and asked him to itemise it. Steinmetz duly sent back an itemised bill:

"Making one chalk mark ... \$ 1

Knowing where to put it ... \$ 9,999"



12. The time machine.

Always use the fastest office equipment available to you — such as the LQ2500, the new 24-pin dot-matrix printer from Epson.

It shoots along at an amazing 270 characters per second in draft — and at 90 c.p.s. in correspondence-quality mode, it will certainly help you make short work of all your business letters. (See again section 6.)

The print quality of the LQ2500 is equally sharp, for it has five letter-quality fonts built in. Furthermore, changing between them does not involve the lengthy business of making software commands; to choose a new typestyle, you simply press one or two buttons on the LCD 'Selectype' panel on the front.

The LQ2500 comes with a powerful 8K buffer as standard to allow your computer to get on with other tasks while it is printing. (See again section 2.)

IBM-compatibility also comes as standard — and of course, the LQ2500 is every bit as reliable as you would expect an Epson to be.

Yet it costs only £995 (RRP exc. VAT) — with the option of 7-colour printing for a mere £60 extra (RRP exc. VAT).

For further information, either: write to Epson (U.K.) Limited, Freepost, Birmingham B37 5BR; call up Prestel *280#; or dial 100 and ask for Freephone Epson.

And see again section 9.



EPSON

Euro-MPs call for extra VAT to dispose of farm surpluses

From Richard Owen, Strasbourg

A European Parliament report yesterday proposed a special EEC fund for the disposal of farm surpluses to be financed by extra VAT contributions from the 12 member-states.

The idea found widespread support from Euro-MPs alarmed by the EEC's growing budget crisis, which is rapidly veering out of control, largely because of the spiralling cost of storing agricultural over-production.

Spain and Portugal, who only joined the EEC this year, argue that surpluses for which they are not responsible must not adversely affect structural funds for the Iberian nations.

The report suggests that only the pre-enlargement EEC of 10 should contribute to the special fund. It calls for direct income aid to farmers as well as increased structural funds as part of the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy which the Council of Ministers "has not so far had the courage to undertake".

In a more controversial passage the report, by Señor Enrique Barón Crespo, a Spanish Socialist, suggests that the EEC budget shortfall could be made good by a transfer to EEC coffers of national road and petrol taxes. This received less support.

on the grounds that national governments would firmly resist any such transfer of their tax-gathering powers to Brussels. British Conservative MEPs also insisted that any future budgetary arrangements must preserve the hard-won British rebate, agreed at the Fontainebleau summit two years ago.

The Barón Crespo proposals come at a time when the EEC is desperately searching for a way out of the impending crisis over the 1987 budget which, because of farm spending and a backlog of regional and social commitments, is likely to over-run by several billion pounds.

Earlier this week the Centre for European Policy Studies, a Brussels think-tank, suggested that farm spending should be hived off in a separate budget.

In a related report yesterday Frau Magdalene Hoff, a West German Socialist, proposed speedy export of farm surpluses to avoid storage costs. Frau Hoff said storage costs in 1984 amounted to £2 million, and the cost of selling off surpluses on the world market would be £3 million. The Hoff report said greater account had to be taken of market forces when farm prices were fixed, and products such as cereals should only go into EEC stores as a last resort.

Greek envoy escapes Beirut kidnap bid

Beirut (Reuters) — The Greek military attaché in Lebanon escaped a kidnap attempt in Muslim west Beirut yesterday by speeding away from a pursuing vehicle, embassy sources said.

Two gunmen tried to kidnap Colonel Georges Papadimitriou shortly after he and his Lebanese driver crossed in his car, with Lebanese number plates, from Christian east Beirut to the west.

"I am blond and look like a foreigner," Colonel Papadimitriou said shortly after he escaped. "I was speeding, trying to keep them behind me to stop them from intercepting my car by moving right and left in the same lane."

"I only stopped in the parking lot of my apartment block and the pursuing car stayed outside the building."

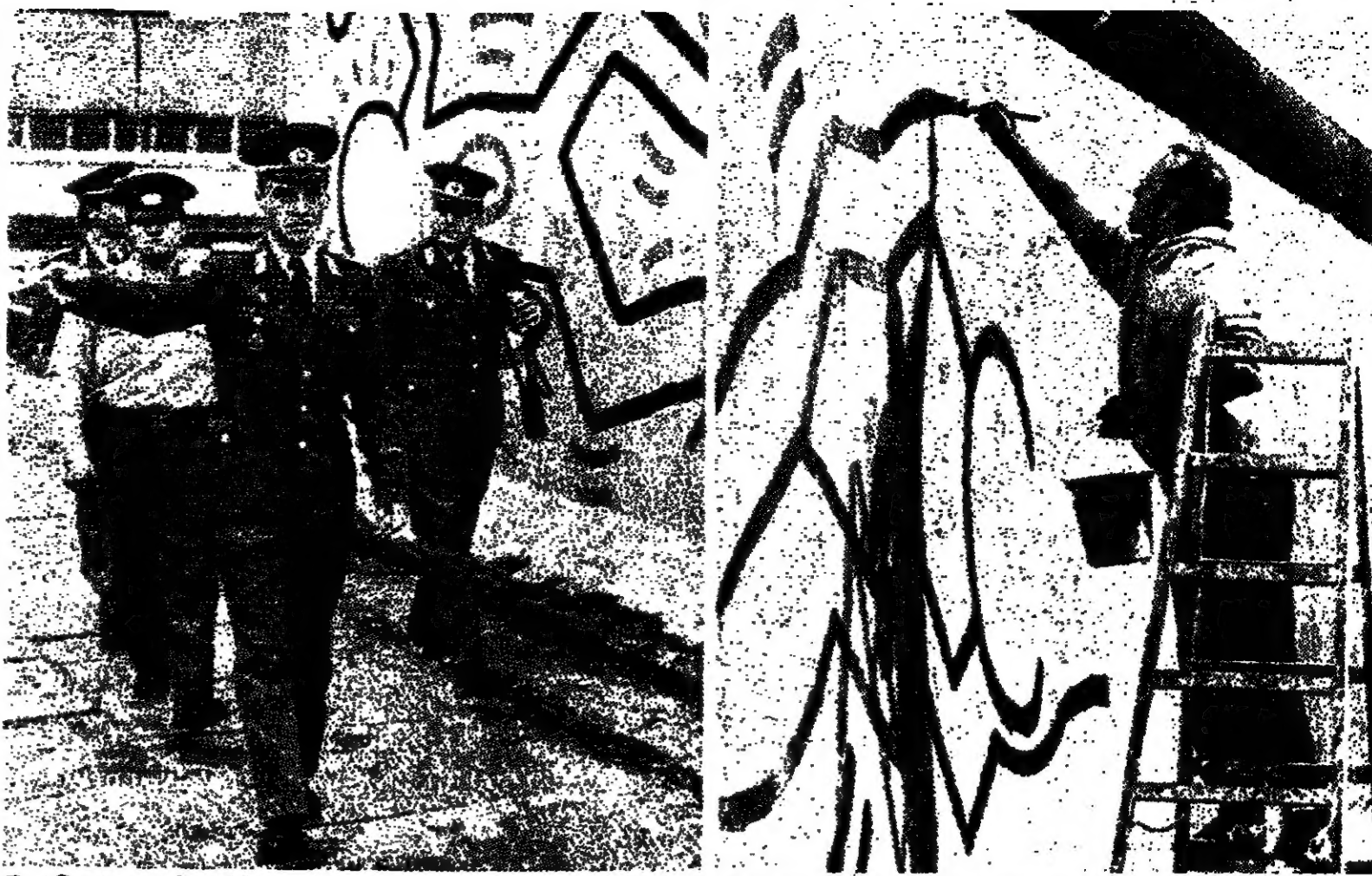
... They waited for a while then left."

It was the first reported attempt to seize a Greek diplomat in Lebanon where some 22 missing foreigners are believed to have been kidnapped.

The Portuguese Ambassador, Senhor Luis Conzaga Ferreira, yesterday informed President Gemayel that his country was closing down its embassy for security reasons.

Clashes intensify: Fighting between Shia Muslim militiamen and Palestinian guerrillas intensified yesterday after night-long battles and a guerrilla attack around the Palestinian refugee camp of Rashidiyah in southern Lebanon (Juan Carlos Guncuio writes).

Reports from Tyre said nine people were killed in the violence.



East German guards arriving to stop an American graffiti artist, Mr Keith Haring, from painting the Berlin Wall near Checkpoint Charlie yesterday.

Shamir appoints Arab mayor

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Another Arab mayor has been appointed by Israel to serve in the occupied West Bank, this time in the tiny town of Anabta, north-west of Nablus.

The appointment of Mr Tahar Hijazi, the former deputy who resigned from the town council in 1982 when Israel dismissed the elected mayor, was undoubtedly approved after consultation with Jordan.

It indicates that Mr Yitzhak

Shamir, as Prime Minister, means to carry on the attempt started by Mr Shimon Peres to form a new moderate leadership in the occupied territories capable of undermining the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

That attempt, according to some Western diplomats here, was an important reason for last week's grenade attack on a group of soldiers near the Dung Gate of the Old City in which one civilian died and 69 people were injured.

Support for the PLO, shown

in a poll published last month by *al-Fajr*, the Jerusalem Palestinian newspaper, runs at 93 per cent in the occupied territories. Nobody doubts that the PLO has massive support among Palestinians from the West Bank.

King Hussein of Jordan's efforts to find \$1.5 billion (£1 billion) to spend improving the quality of life in the territories over the next five years and the American and Israeli encouragement to any alternative leadership, has been seen as a potential threat by the PLO.

Italian deputies vote for a pay increase

Rome — Members of the Chamber of Deputies have voted themselves a pay increase and more expenses (Peter Nichols writes).

The 630 deputies gave themselves the new benefits without waiting for a report from the special Joint Commission of the two Houses, which is studying the issue.

Senator Giovanni Ma-

subjects still officially under discussion.

The innovation which is regarded as most surprising is that by which secretaries will be paid for by the state from 1987. Each deputy will receive £1,080 a month for secretarial assistance.

All deputies will now receive a net income of some £39,000 a year. They have also voted to introduce a life insurance scheme, with benefits of £165,000 payable on death.

Warsaw bars US trip by Walesa

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish authorities have turned down an application from Mr Lech Walesa to travel to the United States today, despite a last minute attempt to whisk him to Los Angeles for an award ceremony.

A private plane stood by in the West — having been refused entry to Warsaw Airport — and an official of the Californian John Roger Foundation committed anxiously between Warsaw and Gdansk. But the Solidarity chairman will not be at the dinner tonight.

Mr Walesa was declared one of three winners of the John Roger Foundation "integrity" awards this year. He has refused to travel to the West unless Polish authorities guaranteed that he could return. The Government has never given the guarantee, but Mr Walesa decided to attempt the trip in any case.

One of his aides went to the passport office in Gdansk on Thursday to collect the document, but officials there said that Mr Walesa had not completed his application properly and would have to re-submit the forms.

Although neither side would admit it publicly, the collapse of the travel plan is almost certainly a relief to the authorities and Mr Walesa. The Government would not be happy about the inevitable meeting between President Reagan and Mr Walesa, especially as the US could then claim it was lifting economic sanctions as a result of Solidarity's intervention. But the Government did not want the stigma of rejecting Mr Walesa's plans.

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Was £299.99

SALE PRICE £249.99

NO DEPOSIT INSTANT CREDIT ONLY £5 MONTHLY

JVC Hi-Tech Midi System

- Twin-cassette decks
- 3-band graphic equaliser
- 3-band stereo tuner
- 10 watts per channel RMS. Model: W10.

Was £299.99

SALE PRICE £249.99

NO DEPOSIT INSTANT CREDIT ONLY £5 MONTHLY

JVC Hi-Tech Midi System

- Twin-cassette decks
- 3-band graphic equaliser
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Monthly Interest	9.00%	12.68%
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£500 up to £1,999	7.75%	10.92%
£2,000 up to £4,999	8.00%	11.27%
£5,000 up to £9,999	8.25%	11.62%
£10,000 plus	8.50%	11.97%
CHEQUE-SAVE ACCOUNTS		
Up to £2,499	5.25%	7.39%
£2,500 up to £9,999	7.85%	11.06%
£10,000 up to £24,999	8.09%	11.39%
£25,000 plus	8.75%	12.32%
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Honecker visit to Peking heralds renewal of party links

From Robert Grievs, Peking

Mr Deng Xiaoping, China's paramount leader, and Herr Erich Honecker of East Germany met at the Great Hall of the People yesterday after an historic meeting which marks the first official visit to the People's Republic by the East German leader.

Herr Honecker's six-day visit to China is the first by an East German leader since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1949. It also heralds the resumption of Communist Party ties between the two countries.

China and East Germany froze their diplomatic and party relations during the Sino-Soviet rift of the early 1960s. At that time the Warsaw Pact nations, with the exception of Romania, sided with Moscow in the dispute.

At their meeting yesterday morning, Herr Honecker hugged and kissed Mr Deng three times. Mr Deng told Herr Honecker that party ties between China and East Germany "were never really broken".

The New China news agency also quoted Mr Deng as telling Herr Honecker that

the Chinese Communist Party had formulated "some new views on China's external and domestic policies and on building its relations with other (communist) countries".

"We have adopted a forward-looking attitude in building domestic and international affairs," Mr Deng said.

Herr Honecker said relations had improved "step by step" since 1978, when Mr Deng and his supporters embarked on China's open door policy.

Herr Honecker's trip comes at a time when relations between Moscow and Peking appear to be thawing slightly, though the two Communist giants have not yet resumed party-to-party contact.

East European analysts in Peking said Peking's new overtures to Warsaw Pact nations have Moscow's tacit blessing. Chinese Communist Party officials insist, however, that China would like to forge diplomatic and party links with Eastern Europe that are independent of the Soviet Union's influence.



Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, meeting Mr Deng Xiaoping in Peking.

Chinese TV turns back the pages

Peking — Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck, the famous Walt Disney cartoon characters who epitomize Western pop culture, are about to invade the People's Republic of China (Robert Grievs writes).

They will star in their own television series, *Mickey and Donald*, which will have its

premiere on Sunday on China Central Television (CCTV). A total of 104 half-hour episodes will be broadcast on consecutive Sunday evenings during the next two years.

"The image of Mickey Mouse has long been known in China, but this is the first time that it has been shown on Chinese television," said Mr

Hong Minsheng, CCTV's deputy director.

He estimated that 30 million Chinese children will initially watch each episode of the cartoon series. So far, 10 episodes have been dubbed in Chinese.

Mickey Mouse, created in 1928, was widely known in pre-Communist China.

Judiciary fears police state in Spain

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Spain is in danger of becoming a police state, Madrid's criminal judges claimed in a communiqué published here yesterday. They called for a parliamentary probe into growing police powers, abuse of authority and corruption.

It was the second warning about police from a judiciary body in barely a week. A group of Basque magistrates have expressed fears that recent incidents, such as the Government's order to 90 Civil Guard policemen to refuse to obey a summons from a Bilbao judge investigating torture claims, might amount to the creation of a special status for policemen in the courts.

The Madrid Criminal Judges Board drafted its communiqué after learning of an alleged police investigation into the private life of a magistrate who is handling a case in which several policemen are accused in connection with an informer's disappearance.

The Madrid judges expressed doubts about the Government's ability to control the police forces, saying: "The plain fact is that experience demonstrates that a free hand for police creates a breeding ground for a climate of undesirable corruption."

Guatemala to lift Belize sanctions in bid to settle row

From Paul Valley, Guatemala City

The Guatemalan Government is about to lift economic sanctions and trade restrictions which it imposed against Belize five years ago, when Britain granted independence to the colony amid of Guatemalan sovereignty claims.

The move is part of the build-up to a new attempt within the next few months by the Government of President Cerezo, which took office this year after four years of military rule, to settle the dispute.

Foreign Ministry officials here have almost completed a set of proposals to put before Britain and Belize early next year, Señor Francisco Villagrán, the Guatemalan vice-minister for Foreign Affairs, said. The economic embargo would be lifted as a prelude to opening the way to Guatemalan investment.

"We have sensed a real desire for that in discussions with businessmen here," he said.

The Cerezo Government's proposals are understood to include elements which offer a basis for negotiation which is different from those of the unsuccessful 1983 and 1985 tripartite talks on the former British Honduras.

"We are willing to consider different options, even the option of joint development projects and the joint exploitation of resources," Señor Villagrán said.

Guatemala also hopes that Britain, which continues to station troops in Belize at the request of the Government, would offer technical and economic assistance in some of the joint projects.

"We feel Britain should continue to play a role. After all Great Britain is responsible for the problem, not Belize," Señor Villagrán said. He said reports during President Cerezo's recent visit to Europe which said Guatemala was relinquishing its claim to Belize were "over-stated".

"They came from a problem with translation," he said. "But what is true is that there is a radical difference between the attitude of previous governments and the willingness of President Cerezo to recognize the existence of a distinct community living in that territory."

Officials here now privately acknowledge Belize's right to self-determination and recognize that they will have to negotiate directly with the administration there. Until now Guatemala's stance has

been that all negotiations can only be with Britain.

But in public they are forced to be more circumspect. "For the past three decades the Guatemalan people have been consistently misinformed and told that they had a realistic chance of getting Belize back," Señor Villagrán said. "It is a very sensitive issue here. There are some political forces that have consistently used the issue to demonstrate their nationalistic credentials. Now we need time to educate public opinion."

The constitution adopted last year before the elections indicated a softening of the Guatemalan position on Belize, but required that any settlement should be approved by a plebiscite.

Diplomats here believe that, although the public is largely apathetic on the Belize question, the unsophisticated electorate in this still hesitant democracy could easily be led by the opposition into treating the referendum as a vote of confidence in a government whose popularity is already diminishing.

The crux of the dispute lies in Guatemala's sense that its remote Peten region is isolated without access to the Atlantic through Belize. Peten is currently being explored by all companies, who claim it to have large mineral reserves.

Its dense jungles are also one of the main bases of the country's rebel guerrillas since the previous military government adopted its policy of forcing the Indian inhabitants of strategic highland villages to live in military outposts.

"It is an issue of internal security and economic survival. Support for rebels is not a problem under the present administration in Belize but it has been a matter of concern in the past that Guatemalan guerrillas may have been allowed to use Belize as sanctuary or as a supply base," Señor Villagrán said. Guatemala could not allow its security to depend upon the whims of the Prime Minister of Belize.

The resumption of good relations with Britain is thought particularly important here at a time when Britain holds the presidency of the EEC.

Many of Guatemala's bilateral loans for its \$2.25 billion (£1.55 billion) debt are with EEC members and the Government is anxious to renegotiate several of them.

Red Cross chief attacks abuses

From Alan MacGregor, Geneva

"Far too often, in the ever-growing number of conflicts, the methods and means employed to injure the enemy have contravened the most basic rules of international humanitarian law," such is the conclusion of Mr. Alexandre Hay, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) President, regarding numerous violations of the Geneva Conventions in the past five years.

As examples, he cites execution of prisoners, terrorism, execution of hostages, indiscriminate bombing and use of prohibited weapons.

His criticisms are the starting point for attempts by the International Red Cross conference, which opened yesterday, to reassess the value of the conventions.

There are delegates from 150 countries, representing governments, national Red Cross societies and the ICRC. African countries' proposals to exclude South African Government delegates from the conference seem unlikely to be pressed, following the unanimous support for the South African Red Cross Society, in the League of Red Cross

Societies' meetings prior to the conference.

Mr Hay endorsed a resolution saying it "deserves our fullest support, give it all the tools to carry out its work". As the activities of ICRC delegates — visiting detainees and going into the townships — as well as the work of the national societies, clearly imply continuing South African Government sanction, a compromise on the exclusion is expected.

Two assessment reports, one by Sussex University, the other by business consultants Price Waterhouse, highlight instances of League incompetence in dealing with the African famine situation.

"We cannot avoid the conclusion that had the League been better prepared in policies, organization, procedures and professionalism, many more lives would have been saved and much suffering averted," the university survey says.

The reports, commissioned by the League secretariat for £110,000, underline that the secretariat needs to be enlarged and strengthened to carry the responsibilities assigned to it.

Hungary tries to blunt uprising anniversary

From Richard Bassett, Budapest

Thirty years after students in Budapest demanded political reforms which sparked off the Hungarian uprising, the authorities here remain at pains to play down any spontaneous references to the revolution.

Yesterday, there were no official anniversary ceremonies as such public displays could be seen as provocative. Instead, articles in the official press — drawn from a new history of Hungary — are playing down the violence of 30 years ago.

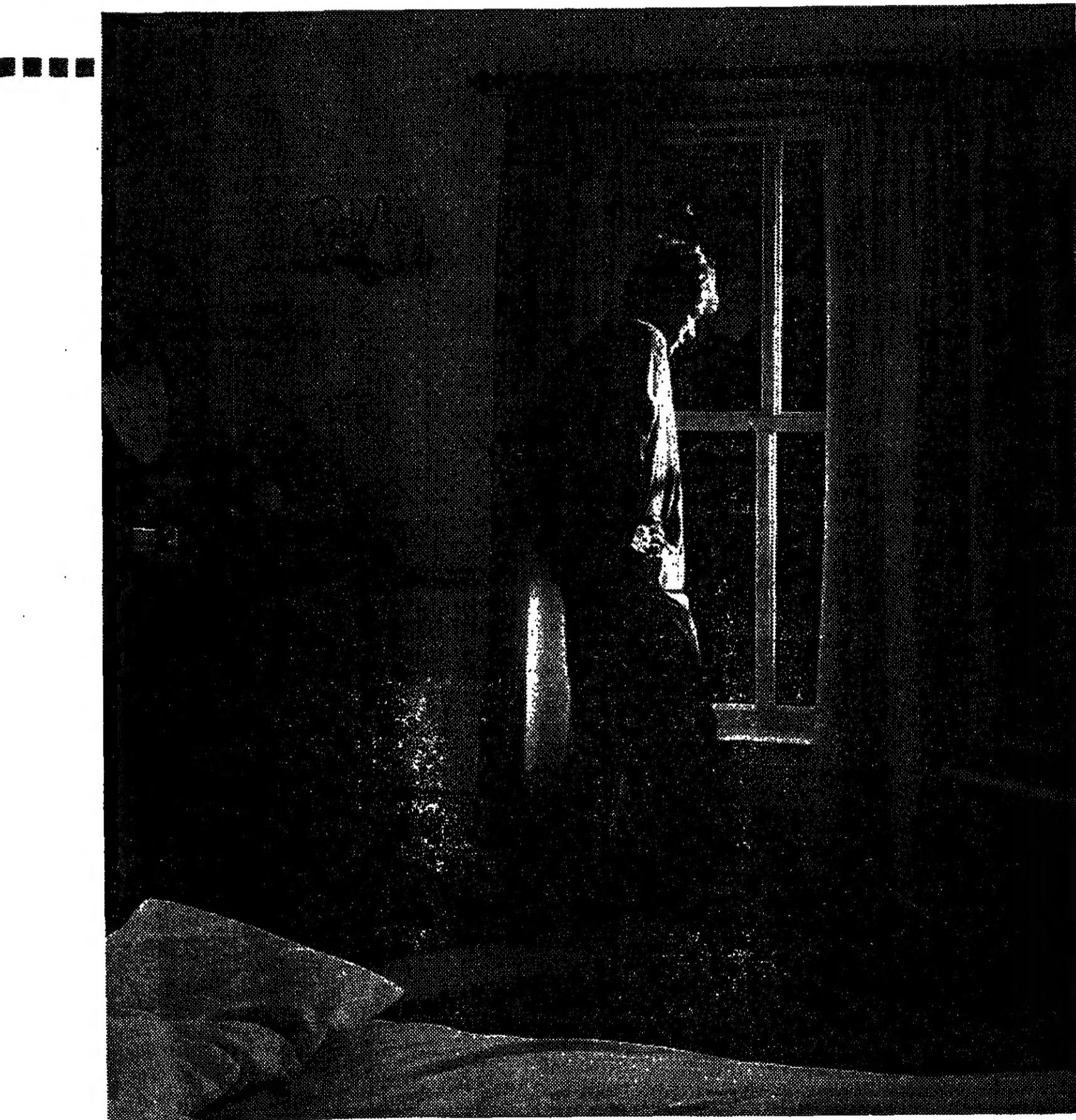
One article emphasized that at first the Hungarian tanks "received orders not to bring any ammunition with them". In another, the blame for the events of October 23, 1956, were put squarely on "bourgeois right-wing groups bent on inciting mass hysteria".

The Government and the party were unprepared for armed provocation, it said. "Only in the late evening hours of October 23 was the

decision taken to order regiments from the provinces to come to Budapest and to ask for the assistance of Soviet troops."

This emphasis on Hungarian Soviet co-operation is a recurring theme in the official media's portrayal of the 1956 uprising. Though dissidents claim that most Hungarians see these articles as a "tissue of lies", those who were not alive at the time may be impressed, especially going Hungarians, by this relentless low-key approach to the violent events of 30 years ago.

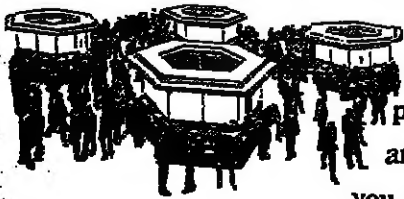
● VIENNA. Czechoslovakia marked the anniversary of the Hungarian uprising yesterday by implicating the United States in what it called the "plot against the Hungarian people". The Communist Party daily *Rude Prava* said the uprising was carried off "with the help of American elaboration, abroad." (Reuters reports that the United States



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Speculation on early election

Lange popularity soars leaving National opposition in disarray

From Richard Long, Wellington

New Zealand's opposition National Party was in turmoil last night after a nationwide political poll showed the Government leading by a 14 point margin in spite of rising unemployment, rising inflation and the introduction of a VAT-style tax.

The results of the poll, taken last weekend, immediately raised speculation about a snap election and the prospects of a National Party leadership challenge.

Mr Jim Bolger, the National Party leader, appeared to get most of the blame for what is seen as a floundering and inept opposition performance. The approval rating for the way he is handling his job dropped a startling 11 points to 34 per cent.

In spite of the surge in inflation to 11 per cent, rising unemployment and the introduction of a 10 per cent goods and services tax in the last month, Labour's approval rating is now 56 per cent to National's 42 per cent. This is up five points on last month's 53 to 44 result.

Approval for the Government's policies is up in nearly all areas, except for the way it is handling employment. But

even this is down only 1 per cent to 25 per cent approval.

Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister, would make no immediate comment on the poll, but government sources rejected speculation on the possibility of a snap election being held, pointing out that this had been consistently ruled out by Mr Lange.

Mr Lange has said that his Government, which has a 15 seat majority, will go full term. That means an election next August or September.

Labour Party strategists were delighted, claiming that it was the first time the Healey-Eyewitness political poll had recorded a government so far ahead in the ratings at this stage of the three-year political cycle.

The combination of the drop in Mr Bolger's personal rating and the decline in the National Party's standing was being cited last night by some MPs as grounds for a coup attempt against Mr Bolger.

They pointed out that Mr Jim McLay, the former National Party leader, was replaced as leader when the National Party was trailing the Government by eight points. The survey revealed that

when people were questioned as to who was their preferred prime minister, Mr Lange recorded 31 per cent support and Mr Bolger dropped to 13.5 per cent — only 0.4 per cent ahead of Sir Robert Muldoon, the former National Party Prime Minister.

Sir Robert, aged 65, was ousted after the 1984 election loss. He has not challenged Mr Bolger in the same way that he undermined Mr McLay — he once described Mr McLay as unfit to lead the National Party.

But in recent interviews and in regular talk-back sessions on Auckland radio stations, Sir Robert had been paternalistic and condescending towards Mr Bolger.

MPs said that Sir Robert doubted Mr Bolger's ability to lead the National Party to an election victory. They said Sir Robert did not have the numbers in the National Party caucus to mount a serious challenge at present.

Mr Bolger cited poll discrepancies and said that anyone moving around the country could see clear disillusionment with government policies in the marginal electorates.

Duke bids a sad farewell to Gurkhas

From Alan Hamilton Hong Kong

The 12-day travelling Royal circus of the Far East finally folded its tents yesterday with the Queen flying home in an aura of goodwill from her Hong Kong subjects.

But the Duke of Edinburgh remained behind to suffer the slings of an editorial in the *South China Morning Post*, which described him as "a sometimes tactless man who occupies, without any real responsibility, a position of great privilege".

The Duke's last official act of the tour was to visit a battalion of Gurkhas soon to be disbanded, at a barracks soon to be demolished.

The Second Battalion, Seventh Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, is being broken up and its 600 men transferred to other Gurkha units. It was raised in 1982 specifically to deal with illegal immigration from China and a surge of Vietnamese refugees.

Illegal entry to Hong Kong has risen sharply in recent months, but the authorities claim that they can now handle the problem.

Recently 110 men of the Gurkhas' First Battalion were dismissed for maintaining a conspiracy of silence over a brawl involving a British officer during an exercise in Hawaii.



The Duke of Edinburgh clapping his hands in a traditional Nepalese greeting while inspecting a Gurkha regiment at Lyemun Barracks, Hong Kong.

Officers at yesterday's parade were adamant that morale among the 4,500 Gurkhas stationed in Hong Kong was still high, but the incident has clearly rankled among the fiercely proud men.

Lyemun Barracks, the scene of yesterday's sad ceremonial, is an emotive place in Hong Kong's history — it was here that the invading Japanese gained their first foothold in 1941, and bayoneted the defenders over a steep cliff.

The Duke told the parade yesterday's occasion was both special and sad.

"You have given splendid service and I hope you will continue to do so wherever you are posted," he said.

"The regiment will go on, and I have absolutely no doubt that it will fulfil its duties with all the enthusiasm and loyalty for which it has become famous since it was raised 84 years ago."

There was a distinct raggedness about the parade, with lines sufficiently out of true to cause apoplexy among Sergeants Major. But they marched smartly enough, at that brisk 140 to the minute

light infantry clip, to the sound of the Gurkhas' own pipe band.

As the Duke left, two Gurkha officers' children placed garlands around his neck and it seemed disappointing that they were made only of coloured crepe paper rather than exotic oriental blooms. The real flowers came later, thrown into the Duke's open Land Rover by members of the First Battalion as he drove away.

The Duke will now return to China to study pandas on behalf of the World Wildlife Fund, of which he is president.

Gibraltar deports work-shy Britons

From Dominique Searle Gibraltar

Gibraltar is deporting three young Britons because the authorities believe that they want to go to prison for a regular feed and a good sleep.

Ian and Roy Bailey, from Essex, were first arrested in July under newly-introduced "40 winks" legislation. This makes it an offence for anybody to fall asleep, or lie awake in a sleeping bag in a public place.

Because of a lack of space and facilities, caravans are not allowed into Gibraltar. But the police are more concerned about impecunious Britons who come to Gibraltar hoping for a good meal and to sleep rough on the beach.

Within two weeks of the introduction of the Bill, 15 youths, mostly British, had been fined or imprisoned for a week.

The Bailey brothers and John Smith, from London, insisted on camping and, after living on wild figs and mussels, told the magistrate hearing their case that they wanted three weeks in prison so that they could wash, eat and sleep and then come out to collect their dole money. They were given a suspended sentence but resumed living rough the same day and were jailed for six weeks. They are to be deported on Monday.

Pakistan hardens kidnap law

An alarming increase in unlawful activity was comprehensively reviewed by Pakistan's Federal Cabinet on Wednesday, when draft legislation providing harsher penalties — including the death sentence or life imprisonment — for kidnapping for ransom were approved.

The Cabinet, headed by Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, the Prime Minister, also considered taking steps to counter some opposition political activities, such as the demand by the Pakistan People's Party for a confederation to replace the existing federal system.

The demand for a change to confederation has been especially strong in Sindh, the home province of the deposed and executed Prime Minister, Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and in Baluchistan, which has been subjected to frequent military operations to subdue tribal chiefs since Pakistan's independence in 1947.

Among the prominent advocates of confederation are former cabinet colleagues of Mr Bhutto, who have since left his Pakistan People's Party. This is now headed by his daughter, Miss Benazir Bhutto, who claims that the only viable symbol of a true federal system is her People's Party.

A government communiqué said the Cabinet had reviewed the internal situation in its geopolitical context as well as taking account of the prevailing position with law and order.

The statement obviously referred to the reported involvement of both Afghanistan and India in sabotage and subversion in the politically sensitive provinces, the North-West Frontier Province and Sindh.

The opposition blames martial law and scant respect for political institutions by military governments for the present extremism in both politics and civic life.

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Marshall Islands gain independence from US

Majuro, Marshall Islands (Reuters) — The Marshall Islands, which has a top-secret US missile base, was yesterday given semi-independence after 39 years of American rule.

A "compact of free association" will allow the United States to keep its missile range at Kwajalein for at least 30 years with an option for a further extension. Mr Heochi Balos, Minister without Portfolio, said.

Washington would give the western Pacific nation \$30 million (£21 million) a year in aid for the next 15 years, he said.

The United States will keep control over the Marshall Islands' military and defence activities. The islands had been a UN Trust Territory under US administration since the end of World War Two. Mr Balos said the Government had declared a two-day holiday to mark the occasion but formal celebrations would not be held until next year.

The Marshalls are the first of three US-ruled island groups in the Micronesian archipelago to approve such a compact, which has been denounced by the Soviet Union as an attempt to perpetuate America's military hold over the area.

Earlier this year a group of islanders staged sit-in protests at Kwajalein, part of a planned



network of bases for the Strategic Defence Initiative — the Star Wars programme. The demonstrators objected to the use of Kwajalein as an American nuclear site and want it returned to the islanders.

Leaders of the protest have said they will not recognize an agreement which allows continued US military use of any part of their territory.

But Mr Balos said the declaration of self-government sparked no demonstrations and most of the 40,000 islanders supported it.

"Our people are happy and enthusiastic about the compact which would give us more money in aid to develop our nation," he said.

In neighbouring Palau, government attempts to push a similar deal have been thwarted in three plebiscites during the past four years.

Palau's constitution bans nuclear facilities, but the Government has vowed to find ways of winning self-government through the compact.

THE ARTS

Goading action

In two programmes last night about the same subject Independent Television got up to some more Government-bashing. Unfortunately, not only did the broadcasts appear embossed, they threaten to have the support of history. For it is arguable that, miracle cures notwithstanding, the present government will be condemned most by future generations not for its handling of the economy, defence or nuclear power but its inadequate response to Aids.

TELEVISION

Television has a much more honourable record than the British Press in its coverage of the disease, but it appears it was bureaucratic bungling rather than a policy of saturation broadcasting that resulted in some regions showing both the *This Week* programme *Aids - The Last Chance* (Thames) and *Aids - Everyone's Problem* (Central). Inevitably there were some overlaps - the same American Aids information advertisement appeared in both programmes, as did one of the experts. The extended exposure, however, only emphasized the absurdity of the Government's reluctance to mount their own television campaign. Even their chief health adviser seemed unable to understand their inertia.

When they do get round to it perhaps they should employ Dr Charles Farthing who, in the Central programme, again showed that it is possible to talk on television informatively and seriously about this terrible disease and do it with a smile. Judging, however, from the young people interviewed for *This Week* a lot of education is needed. The prospect of using condoms, let alone monogamy, was viewed by them with horror. One even quoted his headmaster's opinion that using condoms was like eating a Mars Bar with the wrapper on - echoing perhaps the sweet's starring role as a symbol of the permissive society in a famous drugs trial. Alas, now, love is not all we need, and the Government should warn all sexually active people on television that, if they do not like their candy home-made, they should keep the wrapper on. Only they should not so mince their words.

Andrew Hislop

Touching view of humanity

CINEMA

Parting Glances (15)
Screen on the HillLatino
ICAThe Boy Who Had
Everything (PG)
Cannon Tottenham Court
RoadLegal Eagles (PG)
Plaza

Bill Sherwood's *Parting Glances*, first noticed from the Edinburgh Festival, looks even better at second viewing and - with a stylish, even glossy look that dissembles its derisory budget - qualifies as one of the most original and accomplished debuts of the year. It is mostly about homosexual friendships, but that is incidental; what is important is the skill and sophistication with which it explores human relationships of all sorts and degrees. It is set in Manhattan yuppie society, but yuppies are human too, and we have a rare sense of a whole group of people enmeshed in a web of relationships and shared memories that stretch far back.

The parting glances of the title are exchanged between Michael and his friend Robert, who is taking off to work in Africa. There is also a more distressing parting impending: their friend Nick, a brilliant, manic, difficult, demanding musician is shortly to die from AIDS. Perhaps Robert is impelled to leave because his relationship with Michael is in the doldrums, or perhaps because he cannot face the trauma of a death.

The action takes place in the 24 hours around Michael's departure: in their home, where the couple clown and bicker, their smart one-liners serving as a code for deeper feelings; at a dinner party with Michael's lecherous English boss and his complaisant wife; at a party where their friends, of all sexes and orientations, assemble for the send-off; and Sherwood skilfully shows us the way that people juggle with one another in such circumstances. A still more brilliantly managed scene, the weary morning after, brings the affairs of Robert, Michael and Nick to a believable and touching interim.

Some of the supporting roles tend to caricature, but the main performances are near faultless. Richard Dunning and John Bolger succeed in showing the cracks in Michael's and

Personable energy: Jason Connery comforts his real-life mother, Diane Cilento, in *The Boy Who Had Everything*

Robert's suave, young professional sang-froid that exposes real feeling beneath. A cadaverous comedian, Steve Buscemi, gives Nick the authentic nerve irritability, recklessness and egoism of the desperately ill; Sherwood is interested in the psychology of his plight, not the clinical details: there is not a pill or hypodermic in sight. A professional comedienne, Kathy Kianey, plays their generous, lonely best friend and Adam Nathan a brash young newcomer, baffled that he cannot crash his way into their charmed circle of old acquaintance.

Parting Glances opens for a London run, but also figures in a National Film Theatre season of films on homosexual themes, already featured in the Tyneside Film Festival. Surprisingly the season assembles no fewer than 10 feature films, all of commendable quality and all made within the last two years.

The American cinema has spoken out forthrightly against the country's intervention in Latin American politics. Roger Spottiswoode's *Open Fire* (1983) and Haxell Wexler's *Latino* deal with Nicaragua. Oliver Stone's tougher and still more outspoken *Salvador* last week took the main prize at the Tyneside Film Festival.

Latino is the first film directed by Wexler, one of the world's best cinematographers, since his documentary on violence in America, *Medium Cool*, in 1969. Actually filmed in Nicaragua, it follows the

adventures of a Mexican-American officer in US Special Forces, assigned to train and support the Contra guerrillas. It turns the conventions of the American war film upside down as the hero becomes implicated in Contra outrages on the civilian population - including the shanghaiing of adolescents as Contra trainees - and ends up as a prisoner of war.

The war scenes have the look of careful research, and the documentary claims of the film are vindicated by current news reports. The love intrigue with a beautiful Nicaraguan agronomist, however, fails to provide the narrative time intended, and instead feels rather a distraction. It is said that the film has not secured a commercial release, but lands up at the ICA whose audiences, one might suppose, are less likely than Cannon customers to need the exhortation of the title song. "Can you hear me?" it asks. "Wake up. We are the voice of America. Somebody help me. Gotta stop a crime."

From *The Boy Who Had Everything* we discover that Australian college rituals are (or at least were) even more brutal, humiliating and (for cinemagoers) embarrassing than the American variety. It is the story of a good all-rounder (Jason Connery, son of Sean) who finally rebels against the intolerable burden of expectation laid on him, and leaves college.

Stephen Wallace, who made the

gentle *Love Letters from Teraba Road* and the less gentle *Sir*, proves a better director than writer. The script is not well written, and confuses its issues. The poor lad really does have everything - humiliation in college and an unstable, alcoholic, divorced mother at home; not to mention an odd compulsion to take up with five-pound tarts in Sydney's King's Cross. It is also Vietnam time, but this theme is somehow mislaid on the way. Young Connery is personable as the introverted hero; his mother is energetically played by his real-life mother, Diane Cilento.

Legal Eagles is directed by Ivan Reitman, who made *Ghosts*, and scripted by Jim Cash and Jack Epps Jr., who wrote *Top Gun*. So it has its commercial head well screwed on. It combines the formula of sparring sexual opponents - Robert Redford and Debra Winger - with a comedy thriller of labyrinthine plot and innumerable suspects; and throws in a car-chase and a bit of slapstick for fun. A novel thrill is provided by a climactic fire which appears to destroy the genuine Picasos, Warhols, Miró's *et al.* which are used as classy set decoration. Redford and Winger play two lawyers allied to extricate a dangerously disturbed beauty (Daryl Hannah) from the accumulating mass of circumstantial evidence against her. The result is undemanding fun, but these are talents that could be better employed.

David Robinson

CONCERTS

BBCSO/
Pritchard
Festival Hall/
Radio 3

The oddity in this BBC Symphony Orchestra concert was Wagner's *Wesendonk-Lieder*, not in the usual Mottl orchestration but in a new version made by Henze 10 years ago. It was not as odd as it might have been. Whereas Henze's adaptations of Monteverdi and Carissimi lavishly festoon the originals with guitars and percussion, his treatment of the Wagner songs is rather a reduction of what we know.

The scoring is for a chamber orchestra of woodwind, harp and strings and, although alto flute and bass clarinet provide a few surprising tints, the mood is restrained, even withdrawn. All the more so because the music is transposed down to suit a mezzo-soprano. There is little sense now of careless rapture: the feeling is rather melancholy, with the strings often divided to suggest a sophistication bordering on weariness. Emotion simply surrenders to the charms of so

much exquisiteness, as at the end of "Im Treibhaus", where phrases for woodwind, strings and harp gently overlap. The effect, I am not sure how ironically intended, is of a decadence all the more supreme for its economy, and suggests that Henze has still not obeyed Auden's injunction and made his peace with Wagner.

The beaming of the music was carried still further here by slow tempos, for which perhaps Henze and Sir John Pritchard share responsibility. I cannot imagine that they came from Hanna Schwarz, who found some difficulty in extending phrases and in controlling her vibrato at these speeds. The orchestra, though, were able to respond to Henze's deftness, as much as to Berlioz's monster savagery (in spite of a couple of bits of untoward savagery) in the *Frances Juges* Overture.

The symphony brought more orchestral magic, for this was Tchaikovsky's *Manfred*. Now it was Sir John's turn to rein in emotional excess, with his crisp beat and precisely detailed sounds. Manfred's yearning ache in the brass and his plummeting strings were not indulged; the effect was curiously outward, Berliozian, and entirely convincing.

Paul Griffiths

Crowley/Mason/
Barclay
Purcell Room

The young virtuoso trumpeter Andrew Crowley boldly risked being upstaged by his two supporting artists in this entrancingly entertaining recital. The pianist David Mason, after a slightly wooden reading of Webern's poetic Op 27 Variations, gave a taut, appositely brittle performance of Copland's own uncompromising Variations. And the percussionist Andrew Barclay, required for Jolivet's *Heptade*, offered nothing less than the British premiere of Henze's *Five Scenes from the Snow Country* for solo marimba, written in 1978.

One can understand the delay, for this work presents formidable technical and musical challenges. Its *raison d'être* is simple enough: it was written as a response to a snowfall witnessed by the composer while in Japan. Henze's choice of instrument is ideal, for with its short reverberation period and strangely metallic attack the marimba both evokes the iciness of the winter air and suggests the twanging sounds of the koto, the Japanese zither.

Barclay handled its alternating slow and fastish move-

ments with great sensitivity, always aware of crucial referential points of repose, always ready to respond flexibly to a delicate flight of imagination. His contribution in Jolivet's *Heptade* was rather more extrovert, but then the accent in this piece, composed in 1971 but given its British premiere only earlier this month, in the Nettlefold Festival, is very much upon colour and rhythm. Crowley's playing here was jazzily athletic yet finely controlled, his quiet high note at the end of the third movement, for instance, sustaining credulity.

Berio's *Sequenza X*, in which Mason had to play a passive role simply holding down notes on the piano to allow the strings to vibrate sympathetically, was the severest test of Crowley's technique, musicianship and stamina. One or two split notes apart, he passed with flying colours, though the work might have been yet more enchantingly dramatic had he been able to remain still in the long, meditative pauses. There could be no complaints about his reading of Maxwell Davies's Trumpet Sonata. He (and Mason) added a lyrical strength to its turbulence, so that it emerged as something rather more than the gesture of an angry young man.

Stephen Pettitt

ROCK

Robert Cray Band
Hammersmith Palais

As David Olson wandered on after the support act to set up his drum kit there was a moment's worry. Do groups who are big enough to play the Palais for two nights not have roadies to do that sort of thing? Had the Cray Band successfully made the transition from club to major touring attraction?

Such suspicions could not have been less well founded, for Cray rose to the occasion with a splendid performance that indicated both the strength of his latest material and his own increasing confidence as a performer, particularly in the range of emotion he is now able to convey in his singing. The virtues of Cray's guitar-play-

ing have been scrutinized in detail and, despite an attack of cramp in his left hand, he was in impressive form, conjuring delicate melodies out of sneaky three- and four-note chords during "S.O.F.T." and generally living up to his reputation as the most imaginative and technically gifted of the "new" guitarists in the blues or any field.

Fewer comments however have been passed on the merit of his band. The crisp, muscular drumming of David Olson, the languid bass-playing of Richard Cousins and the cool, deft organ and piano work of Peter Boe have now become so cohesive that they have begun to resemble such all-time greats as Booker T. and the M.G.s, not least for their observance of the old-fashioned virtue of economy, sympathetic playing for the benefit of the music rather than the musicians' egos.

David Sinclair

Bleak stagecraft

THEATRE

Banged Up
Young Vic Studio

The East End dramatist Tunde Ikoli earned qualified acclaim last April for his interesting but mishandled reworking of *The Lower Depths*. With the same company, *Foco Novo*, and the same director, Roland Rees, he now offers a brace of two-handers under the peculiar umbrella title of *Banged Up*.

Mr Ikoli's patent concern is to show ordinary people in the throes of discovering how cribbed and caged are their unremarkable lives. His material is largely bleak, its treatment hints at optimism. In *Soul Night*, a black man and a white woman meet by chance in a London Transport disco where he, a bus driver, is trying to mollify his piqued (and unseen) wife. Recognizing each other as schoolfriends of 13 years ago, they reminisce about the golden age of soul music and pick out the threads of what - saving her mother's intransigent racism - might have been a satisfying relationship.

The flashbacks are intrusive and disruptive, and one suspects that the author was too charmed by the original set-up to develop his theme along any but the straightest lines. The

second piece, *Please and Thank You*, gives us a neat reversal of a stock situation but similarly fails to extract the marrow from the bone.

In a grimy council flat (evocatively sketched by Andrea Montag's collage of line) an embittered young widow finds her attempt to commit suicide interrupted by the visit of a strait-laced social worker. Woefully unprepared for the stark realities of poverty, he ends by needing her sympathy; meanwhile, the theme from *Desert Island Discs* triggers off bizarre vignettes of an alternative existence in which they play a materially prosperous but uncommunicative couple. As in the first piece, the arbitrary nature of personal destiny remains unexplored.

Trevor Laird and Tilly Vosburgh work together snappily enough in both plays, but their dialogue is plodding, attenuated and disappointingly unfunny; Mr Ikoli knows the arts and bolts of stagecraft but cannot, as yet, write comedy.

Martin Cropper

Too Hot to
Handle
Old Red Lion

A pungent atmosphere of self-promotion enshrouds this product of the Paul and George Theatre Company, so

Snappy work: Trevor Laird and Tilly Vosburgh in *Banged Up* (photograph by Donald Cooper)

called after its author/director Paul Waite and its lead actor/producer George Yiassoumi, who are also credited with the "original idea" for the play. The idea seems to have had less to do with telling a story than with rounding up an audience of voyeurs.

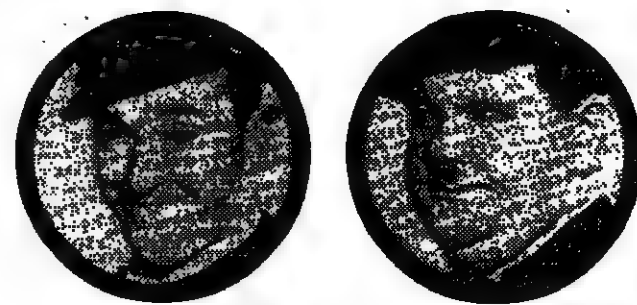
To whet the appetite, the setting is a ramshackle Soho flat during a heatwave which has driven Terri to keeping her knickers in the (otherwise empty) refrigerator. She and Ricky, her philosophy graduate boyfriend, are bawling jealous abuse at each other. Everything is bang up to the minute: there are copies of *The Independent* lying about; Ricky thinks he is going bald because of Cheraboyl. Their friend Laura drops in, looking sad because she has lost her cat. They are all hot and bored and waiting for something to happen.

Enter Mr Yiassoumi in the role of Nathan, a lost traveller seeking shelter, who instantly assumes control of the place once they have given him a bed for the night. He worms out their secrets, sprays them with insults, drinks their liquor and in due course scores with both the girls.

A cuddly simian figure suggesting a middle-eastern Peter Lorre, Mr Yiassoumi has undoubted stage magnetism. Slithering from the top of the fridge to perform a slow snake-like dance across the room simply to light Terri's cigarette, he earns everything he gives him. Expert in playing the plaintive little boy when it suits him, he changes like lightning into inquisitor, man of action and demon lover, never losing status, even when one of the girls plants a broken egg on his bald patch.

Apart from fighting among themselves and turning to putty in his hands, there is not much for the supporting trio to do. It is a one-man play, operating on a system of tricks

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Botha's man under siege

South Africa's soft-spoken London envoy admits that he is unhappy with the rising tide of violence in his country. But, he told Andrew Duncan, the problems are too often over-simplified by the British media

It was an inauspicious start. His Excellency, the ambassador with the most difficult task in London, was half an hour late and then said he didn't realize he was there for an interview. He thought we would discuss doing one at a later date.

I reminded him that we had been through that scenario some months previously, that he had now allotted me an hour of his time and there was a *Times* photographer hovering who would not have been allowed to pass the police, security checks, double reinforced doors and, finally, his locked office wing without full knowledge of our purpose. Ah yes, he said, and began to recall even the small talk of our previous meeting.

Two years ago, Dr Denis Worrall presented his credentials to the Prince of Wales as South African ambassador to the Court of St James. He is a cultured intellectual who spent 20 years as a lawyer and academic — studying and teaching in the United States, Nigeria and South Africa — before entering politics in 1974 as the appointed Senator for the Cape Province. He speaks softly, musing about the shortcomings of his own government, and has a charm that is so compelling it invites suspicion. How can such a reasonable and civilized man represent a pariah nation?

"He's a very plausible apologist," the Liberal leader David Steel says, and certainly the ambassador is adept at manipulating the media, particularly television, which he condemns as "terribly superficial. It deals brilliantly with Mexican earthquakes and mining disasters, but it's the worst possible way to present complex social issues."

"I remember my first television interview here, with John Tusa. He was very aggressive and went over the top when I remained placid. I realized, from the apologetic letters I received, that there is a tremendous prejudice against television interviews. When they are aggressive it is interpreted as rudeness by people watching at home."

The picture of a beleaguered ambassador allowing himself to be bullied is quaint, disarming and ridiculous. Dr Worrall, aged 51, is a street fighter — as he showed in Australia, where he was ambassador before London and managed to infuriate the Hawke government. "There is an element of guilt about the aborigines involved when Australians criticize South Africa. I shot from the hip and was in trouble early on, but the Australians like a fighter and an underdog. But I realized when I came to Britain that the culture didn't lend itself to that approach. I wanted to raise the level of debate about South Africa."



Beleaguered diplomat Dr Denis Worrall at his embassy: "South Africa gets an inordinate amount of publicity"

Fundamental problems would remain even if all South Africa was black

From outside the windows of his spacious panelled office at the now fortified embassy in Trafalgar Square came the shouts, sometimes through a megaphone, of the protesters who assemble in various numbers every day. The ambassador enters the building through a different door but occasionally he walks past them at lunch-time.

Apart from that, he says, his reception in Britain has been good. His Romanian-born wife, Anita, and their three sons, aged 14, 12 and 11, enjoy living here. "There are some situations into which you don't easily go, for protocol reasons, but

put information packages before the Liberals and SDP members at their conferences might be described as an aggressive initiative.

"I thought we could legitimately put our point of view. Shirley Williams was idiosyncratic and went over the top [she described it as "an appalling attempt to intervene in our

procedures"] and David Steel took umbrage because we announced his intended visit to South Africa before he did. Well, he didn't go there to promote the interests of our country. He went to promote the interests of David Steel in Britain, and if he was coy about going he shouldn't have gone."



Restrainted protest: police intervene at an anti-apartheid demonstration

'I wanted to raise the level of debate about South Africa'

other ambassadors are in the same situation and I am always included in normal state functions. My wife, who is more outgoing than I am, has established remarkable friendships across all sorts of barriers.

"I don't know if I've succeeded in raising the level of debate. South Africa gets an inordinate amount of publicity and is an easy political bandwagon, so we just have to respond to the unrelenting pressure of criticism. I haven't sought publicity for myself, or my views, although the little venture when we

"Some people outside South Africa are idealistic about the country and I understand the justness of their cause. I also understand the concerns, fears and aspirations of the Afrikaner who has fought against the British, battled his way up and feels he has contributed enormously to the creation of a state which reflects his historical symbols. The whites support the existing system because many of them are frightened of the alternatives and, on the basis of experience, I would say they are justified."

Among the more dogged members of his government, Dr Worrall is considered to be a closet liberal. "I'm confused about that," he said. "Sometimes I think the most useful person to latch on to is Edmund Burke, with his concepts about change and reform. One has to recognize the power of tradition and the limitation of humans to bring about change. But there are also

'You have to recognize that there are group needs... and values'

times when I find myself recognizing the imperatives and necessity of moving almost faster than the society itself can take."

He thought for a while and then added: "Look, it's true I'm not happy. No one can be happy with the level of violence, whether it's black on black or heavy-handed police action — that is difficult to live with and demoralizing. Many of us are frustrated that the government doesn't spell out more clearly the far-reaching changes that are taking place, and the image which is projected of South Africa is of concern to anyone who loves his country."

"It is fashionable to perceive it in straight moral black-and-white terms. The danger is that by oversimplifying you trivialize the profound problem which is, how do you resolve the question of political power and privilege? In other countries Catholics and Protestants, Turks and Greeks, Slovenes and Serbs and Croats have difficulty living together — yet somehow in South Africa Zulus, Afrikaners and Asians are supposed to achieve harmony just like that."

"Because the question of race is a dominant issue in western society, South Africa has become one of the great international public moral issues of the last quarter of the 20th century. I think that reflects a triumph of political propaganda. If you could make everyone in the country black, you would still have fundamental difficulties."

"Last Sunday my youngest son and I cycled to Clapham Common and I saw a soccer team that was all black. Now that's not apartheid because it's voluntary. You have to recognize that there are group needs, interests and values which are not going to disappear. It's only the proscription element which we have to do away with — and we are."

"If you apply objective measures of human rights to South Africa, Third World and eastern bloc countries, you would find that South Africa doesn't compare too badly. But," he added bleakly, "I've found it difficult to get that sort of conversation going."

Still picking at the seams of life's tapestry

Comedian Dave Allen, on the eve of a 14-week run of his one-man show, finds himself unmellowed by age

Diverses blasting their horns in a certain elegant Kensington street are likely to find themselves taken to task by an Irish comedian being anything but funny. "I live here and I don't want my life subjected to horn-blowers," Dave Allen tells them. He can see no need for horns in cars other than to release frustration.

Unnecessary horn-blowing is one of the many *hates noires* which inhabit Allen's life. He conducts a one-man battle against the irritations and aggravations of the hi-tech, profit-orientated, uniform world around him, refusing to condone any of it. And whether he is filling in immigration forms or struggling to open the plastic bags supplied in a roll by supermarkets, his rebellion is absolute.

Allen is, of course, fortunate in having the wit to utilize his prejudices to entertain. "I really do believe that humour is not so much about laughing at other people as at what you do yourself and how you react," he says.

That, he feels, is what the Greeks had in mind when they created their tragic/comic masks. "Drama is how society would like to see itself; what we all are is a load of jokes."

He returns next Thursday to the West End stage for a 14-week run at London's Albery Theatre. He enjoys working alone because it means he can alter his act as he goes along, start at the end and work back to the beginning if he feels like it. Even so, he is happy "daring in and out" of his various professional pursuits as actor, interviewer, documentarian, comic.

As a youngster, his intentions were to follow his father — who rose to become managing director of *The Irish Times* — into journalism. Instead, he became hooked on performing, a talent he discovered when he first came to England, in order to "eat and live and all that."

"I wasn't really ambitious to do anything in particular," he says of his youth. "I was quite like most Irish — interested in politics because it was a part of life, and social issues, but not to the point where I was a total fanatic about them."

He was a rebel even as a child, playing truant from school and educating himself instead in Dublin's museums and art galleries. "The only guilt I suffered was over the fact that my father was paying quite heavily for my education." In those days, his tussles with bureaucracy were centred on the uniformed commissaire outside his local cinema who got his revenge by giving him the worst seat in the house. "Authority irks me because it doesn't regard people as people but as things or a percentage of something," he says. "I now react to Customs officers in the same way as I did to that commissaire."

Being able to send them up helps, especially in front of an audience. "I don't specifically go out of my way to try to make points but somewhere along the line I make points because I'm annoyed about something. I talk about airports because I know something about airports. I know the chairs are made in a certain way to make them uncomfortable after a certain time. I'm convinced that supermarket trolleys are made that big to make you buy more. I don't like the way people are being engineered, having psychological games played on them."

He is a youthful 50, as entertaining off-stage as on, telling tales in the casual, mocking fashion that has become his trademark. "My humour is an elaboration of my own style," he says. "I probably make it slightly more angry, more involved, just bolder strokes really."

He has been living in London since his marriage broke up five years ago. His four grown-up children "live with their mother and live with me". His home reflects his bachelor status and his priorities. The living room is filled with his canvases and paintings, his music, his books. French windows lead to the small country garden he is creating. "I'm working on it gradually, in the same way as I work on my paintings. People say 'You haven't cut the lawn' but I don't want a lawn. I want a meadow filled with buttercups and daisies."



Allen at 50: "authority irks me"

He says he does not get lonely as such. "There are certain people — as my wife whom I miss when I am away from them, but that's not loneliness."

He is less of a loner, periods of time off from his work. He needs space and tranquillity, to paint, to garden, to read, to stand and stare.

"I'm quite laid back. I'll sit down to write something and get up to make a cup of tea and it's seven o'clock in the evening. I suppose that's one way of knowing you're getting older."

And then there are those irresistible buggers parading through his life, begging to be publicly slain. His latest is uniformity of language: "the right honourables, your honours, the reverends, his holiness, my learned friend — titles which are, in a sense, there to keep us down. Even in the language we are being conditioned to respect and touch our forelock to the church, politics, the military. I'm not a sergeant comedian."

"I think today there is possibly a greater loss of individuality than ever before. If I think of the names of the past — Franco, Hitler, Chamberlain, Churchill, Roosevelt — whatever they were, they were individuals. Now there's a great grey quality about everyone."

"Even in my own business there used to be agents who were characters. Now there are lawyers. Thirty years ago I would shake hands for a contract. Now there's clause upon clause and it just goes on and becomes greyer. People have got their heads down now."

He has learnt much about himself over the years. "I know my certain dislikes and tolerance levels. I know that I can be opinionated and that I can be crass at times, boorish even."

He talks to himself, chides himself, compliments himself, tells himself jokes. In the kitchen he adopts the language of the cuisine. "If I'm cooking an Italian meal I drink wine, I wave my hands and I talk about garlic in an Italian accent."

He enjoys cooking. "I like throwing things in and seeing what happens. I don't believe in the rules."

Sally Brompton
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SATURDAY

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Legendary: 'through caverns measureless to man, down to a sunless sea'

Xanadu rediscovered

"In Xanadu did Kubla Khan a stately pleasure-dome decree", and in Shang-tu did two British students discover the site of the Mongol palace Coleridge made famous? The *Times* examines the evidence for the rediscovery of Kubla Khan's legendary Xanadu

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Talk that's strictly for the birds

Parrot fanciers have been flocking to the Canary Islands to discuss who's a pretty boy, and why

Large flocks of parrot enthusiasts of several different subspecies (German, Scandinavian, Filipino, American, British and many others) were observed on the island of Tenerife last week. Five hundred of them had flown in to participate in the first International Parrot Convention. This, contrary to the suspicions of some holidaymakers, was not an opportunity for blue-fronted Amazons and African Greys to exchange squawks across a conference table, but for parrot experts, breeders, vets and those simply besotted with the colourful creatures to compare notes.

The parrots themselves are well-established on Tenerife, 1,000 birds from 230 species evitably housed in the sub-tropical surroundings of the Loro Parque. This 12-acre parrot paradise was started 14 years ago by Wolfgang Kiessling and has become a mecca of psittacine society.

The parrot pundits arrived full of eager expectation. In the mornings there were lectures. Long-accepted wisdom about the breeding habits of cockatoos was brushed aside like the sweepings from the bottom of a cage. The complexities of the parrots' respiratory tract have been discussed and it emerged that, although Arabs have been known to pay for an ailing falcon to have a body scan, parrot owners can seldom finance such luxuries. A German expounded on "the importance of parrots in historical and cultural terms".

and an American spoke of "The philosophy of parrot keeping".

In the afternoons, convention members clustered round the cages of such rarities as the purple-bellied parrot and the blue-throated macaw which, as recently as 1978, was believed to be extinct.

The Loro Parque is famed for its work in breeding endangered parrots, but even there, they do not have an Imperial Amazon. Time is running out for this magnificent bird whose habitat on Dominica is fast disappearing beneath the onward march of banana plantations. During the convention, which Wolfgang Kiessling described as "a great party of parrot people pooling their knowledge so that our friends, the parrots, will benefit", an appeal was launched and \$20,000 raised towards fieldwork which might just save the 50 or so remaining Imperials from extinction.

There remains one question to which the experts did not address themselves: Is there any way of recognizing "parrot people" *en masse*? There was certainly a little gentle rivalry among the ladies in the way of parrot-design earrings and clothing. And only true parrot lovers would agree with the speaker who described a collection of bare, pink, scrawny, blind, featherless chicks sitting in a plastic bucket as "a beautiful sight". But the best test of all is performed by the parrots. They only have to shake their wings and the creatures on the other side of the cage will prick up their ears, turn their heads on one side and speak. Even members of the first International Parrot Convention have been heard to say, "Who's a pretty boy, then?"

Rosemary Burton
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William Florens (Tate Gallery)

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1088

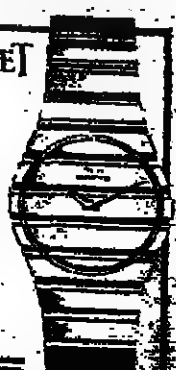
ACROSS	1 Ordinary seaman (6)	7 Concealed trap (7)	18 Pope (7)
2 Can place (4)	8 Hanging loosely (6)	13 Mineral spring (3)	20 Impertune (5)
3 Debt chit (I.L.I.) (1)	9 Debt chit (I.L.I.) (1)	15 Greet (7)	21 Irritable (5)
4 First mentioned (6)	10 Nakedness (6)	16 Illuminated (3)	23 Maliciously derogative (5)
5 Indian dress (4)	11 Indian dress (4)	17 Ultimate (7)	
6 Roman	12 Lincoln/Exeter road (5,3)		
14 Briefly (6)	13 Lincoln/Exeter road (5,3)		
15 Mahogany-like tree (6)	14 Briefly (6)		
16 Nonsense (8)	15 Mahogany-like tree (6)		
17 Can place (4)	16 Nonsense (8)		
18 Mouse or marmot (6)	17 Can place (4)		
19 Sovereign remedy (6)	18 Mouse or marmot (6)		
20 Male cat (3)	19 Sovereign remedy (6)		
21 Frisky (6)	20 Male cat (3)		
22 Paris tower engineer (6)	21 Frisky (6)		
23 Scint (5)	22 Paris tower engineer (6)		
24 Aga Khan sect (7)	23 Scint (5)		
25 Tallest mammal (7)	24 Aga Khan sect (7)		
26 Money resources (5)	25 Tallest mammal (7)		
27 Old person (5)	26 Money resources (5)		
	27 Old person (5)		

SOLUTION TO NO 1087
ACROSS: 8 Finner haddock · 9 Sue · 10 Organiser · 11 Theme · 13 Nul · 15 Surrup · 19 Taste · 22 Befitting · 24 Lob · 25 Instantaneous · 26 DOWN: 1 Officer · 2 Annex · 3 Saboteur · 4 Shogun · 5 Eden · 6 Bon · 7 Skerry · 12 Ho · 14 Lull · 15 Fin · 16 Submitt · 17 Infest · 18 Pwint · 20 Salmon · 21 Emboss · 23 Team

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FRIDAY PAGE

No longer afraid of Virginia

Henrietta Garnett, a scion of the Bloomsbury group, wants her first novel to be judged on its own merits. Liz Hodgkinson reports

When Henrietta Garnett and I were friends at school, we each wrote projections of how we thought the other would be as an adult. I remember predicting that Henrietta would marry spectacularly early and also become a famous writer. I was, as it happened, correct on the first count, but the second did not take any particular act of clairvoyance on my part. As Virginia Woolf was her great aunt, and the novelist David Garnett her father, it was a fair bet that writing would be in her genes.

In the event her talent — precocious and original as a schoolgirl — has taken a long time to mature, and only now, 25 years after those predictions were made, has she completed her first novel *Family Skeletons*, published this week. The book, one has to say, is a most peculiar offering — a strange, haunting tale of a beautiful, isolated young girl's struggle to come to terms with the many tragedies that almost overwhelm her.

The overwhelming impression is of a totally new voice, one untouched by any obvious literary heritage. It is also right out of the mainstream of modern women's writing.

If her fiction seems strange, the facts of Henrietta Garnett's life are even stranger. Married at 17 to "the most beautiful man I have ever seen" — her half-brother's cousin, Burgo Partridge — she was widowed a year later when her daughter was three weeks old. Burgo simply died of a heart attack. So, when the rest of us at Huntingdon Grammar School were studying for A-levels

and applying to university, Henrietta was, at 18, already both a mother and a widow.

"Burgo's death at the age of 27 was so shocking I simply didn't know what to do," says Henrietta, now 41 and possessed of the kind of haggard beauty I remember she had longed for when she was 16. "My father took me to lunch to try to cheer me up, and gave me a copy of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. It was kindly meant, but the last thing I wanted at that time was any kind of liaison. Although our marriage was so brief, it was very happy. I felt I could not stay in England any longer, so I went to Spain with my daughter. It was much less touristy and more beautiful then."

She had been left £10,000 in her husband's will so, in 1963, she had no immediate financial worries. "I did some writing in Spain," she says. "But actually I found it much easier to read and be a bookworm than to write. I used to dance a lot in those days and went to many nightclubs."

Henrietta became a nomad, restlessly travelling to places as diverse as Iceland and the Sahara Desert. "Had my husband not died, I don't think I would have felt the need to travel quite so much," she told me as we sat in the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, in the Lady Ottoline Room, where all round the walls are pictures of her famous relatives.

"I suppose I hoped that travelling would help me forget my grief. But in the mid-60s I came back to England and had a truly wonderful time, meeting pop stars and musicians and living it up. I became very much a part of the Swinging



Henrietta Garnett: "I wanted the book to be like going to a good party"

Sixties, but then got bored with the life and toured the country with my daughter in gypsy caravans."

I was after Henrietta's gypsy caravan phase that the "Bloomsbury bonanza" happened. "When I was a schoolgirl, Virginia Woolf's reputation was at a very low ebb," she said. "Nobody had heard of her, though when I was in the third form at school, my father's book, *Lady Into Fox*, was set for A levels. It seemed to me entirely natural that I should have writers in the family. It never occurred to me at the time that I was actually very unusual to have such talent on both sides of the family."

All this time Henrietta continued to write, but privately. "I had loved dancing as a young woman," she said. "But then, when living in France I had a bad accident and my leg was in plaster for six months. It was during this time I had the great good fortune to meet a French composer, Jacques Fois, who said to me: 'You have to understand that your body is now permanently damaged and it is now time for you to use your brain instead. It's obvious you're a writer, you always have been, and now you must get on and write.'"

"The problem really was all my famous relations. I had been put off trying to get anything published because I couldn't help thinking that whatever I did it would never be as good as anything they've

achieved. I felt I started off with a built-in handicap."

Henrietta believes another reason it took her so long to find her voice as a writer was because she missed her true vocation as an actress. "My elder sister went to drama school and it was felt that I couldn't just follow in her footsteps," she said. "In fact, my sister was the natural writer, and I was the natural actress. So I had to learn my craft slowly and painfully. I had to feel anything I published had individual merit. Now I find that although the act of writing is difficult, it's something I can't not do. It has become addictive."

Of *Family Skeletons*, Henrietta says: "The book took me so long to write because I knew it had to be good. It's written from the top of my unconscious, not the deepest recesses. I don't think I was working through any hidden neurosis. I see the book as my actress personality coming through."

"I wanted the book to be like going to a very good party, where you are entertained but also kept slightly in suspense."

"Obviously, I could have written under a pseudonym so that comparisons with Virginia Woolf, for example, wouldn't immediately have been invited. But then I thought: Why should I? Sitting in this room looking at pictures of all my relations, and thinking about their achievements I want to go up to them and say 'Thank you very much'. I think I've been damned lucky in my family — to have grown up in beautiful houses, to be surrounded by people at the forefront of so many avant-garde literary and political movements."

"I am prepared for people to read my book and say: 'It's not a patch on Virginia Woolf'. But I'm not her reincarnation and I write as myself."

Although Henrietta, with her two sisters and two cousins, owns the rights of *To The Lighthouse*, she said it has not made her rich. "Obviously the book's continuing success has meant I haven't starved," she said. "But as the copyright will come to an end in a few years, I've got to earn my own living at last."

As for her prediction on my adult life, Henrietta can't remember now what she wrote. "I do remember, though, that at the age of 16 we all agreed to meet in 10 years' time at King's Cross station. But we never did."

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Family Skeletons is published by Gollancz, price £9.95.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Little and large

Henry, the 12lb 5oz son of Mrs Joan Sayers of Attleborough in Norfolk has — surprisingly — much in common with Nicola Bell, the 1lb 14oz Middlesbrough girl born of a brain-dead mother. Apart from the fact that they were born in the same week, both need special attention. Fortunately in Henry's case the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital reports that he is doing well. Nicola, too, seems to be holding her own and as each day goes past there is a better chance that she will survive. Statistics show that in a well-run neonatal paediatric centre 80 per cent of babies born at 28 weeks survive, as do half of those delivered in the 26th week of pregnancy. Nicola is

unfortunately rather smaller than the average baby of 32 weeks.

Thirty years ago survival from 26 weeks was almost unheard of. If all babies who needed it were to receive the standard of care the number of cots designated for intensive care would have to be increased from the present provision of 641, of which only 473 are in operation, to 729 — or one per thousand live births. Despite the recommendations of The Royal College of Obstetricians, The British Paediatric Association and a committee of The House of Commons, provision is still inadequate. Paediatricians maintain that saving the care of the newborn is a false economy. Every child who survives, but is irreparably damaged, costs the state a great deal more than the additional expense of an extra neonatal intensive care cot.

Seeing and feeling sounds

As a result of research by scientists from the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, it is hoped that by wearing a 3in by 2in vibratory gadget on their wrists patients will soon be able to "feel" and "see" some of the sounds they cannot hear. The Tactile Acoustic Monitor incorporates a device which vibrates with varying intensity according to the nature and loudness of the sounds it is picking up. It is also fitted with a light, which flickers in a variable pattern. A trial is now being carried out, using 250 profoundly deaf people.

If successful the gadget will have two main applications. It will help the deaf to distinguish the telephone from the doorbell, for example, or enable them to "hear" traffic noise, voices, footsteps and doors banging. It will also help patients to appreciate the loudness of their own voices and judge the level of background noise against which they are speaking. Each TAM costs £125, and the institute has initially ordered 500. It is not distributing them to individual patients, but is working through speech therapists and ear, nose and throat surgeons.

Women's woe

Stress incontinence — having problems holding one's urine when running, coughing, crying, or doing heavy work — is a surprisingly common but rarely discussed complaint among women.

It is usually the result of child-bearing. During delivery the pudendal, inferior rectal and perineal nerves leading to the muscles around the urethra and anal canal are damaged, either by being over-stretched by the passage of the baby's head, or by direct pressure. Statistics show that the more children a woman has had the more likely she is to suffer incontinence and that forceps delivery increases the chance of nerve damage.

Dr Michael Swash, a neurologist at The London and St Mark's Hospital, has made a study of incontinence due to nerve damage. He says that although most of the cases he investigates are due to childbirth, straining due to long-standing constipation can also be responsible and that in old age women with arthritic spines are also apt to suffer damage to the nerve roots.

Once it has occurred the symptoms can be prevented from worsening by surgical repair of the pelvic floor. As full recovery — even after surgery — is unlikely, prevention becomes of prime importance. So, when labour is

likely to be difficult, early caesarean section holds the advantage of preventing damage to the pelvic floor nerve supply — and preventing future incontinence. The gynaecologist who boasts about "settling away with a forceps delivery" or the midwife who allows her patient an overlong labour in order to deliver naturally may be sentencing patients to a lifetime of wet underclothes.

Peril in the scrum

Skidmouth Rugby Club has cancelled its fixtures for the next fortnight in order to prevent the spread of "scrum-pox". Better known as impetigo, scum-pox causes purulent blisters and crusting sores on the face and legs. It is introduced by an infected nasal discharge or saliva and thereafter spreads as faces rub together in the scrum. Treatment should be with the appropriate antibiotic.

Recently it has been suggested that the AIDS virus might be disseminated in the same way. And although there is no record of Hepatitis B — which is much more infectious than AIDS — being transmitted in the scrum, people who are HIV positive are advised not to play rugby.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Try a little tenderness

PARIS REPORT
Delicate flower prints, succulent colours and flirty silk dresses have marked the ready-to-wear collection of the Paris couturiers. Sports wear has been abandoned in favour of more feminine clothes.

Yves Saint Laurent produced some of his old magic — but with hardly a classic blazer or grey Chanel pant in sight. Seductive pearl grey denim, curly sarong skirts and clinging off-the-shoulder knits gave a youthful image to the Rive Gauche collection, which celebrated its twentieth birthday this season.

Saint Laurent's tailoring looked fresh for curly bolero jackets spattered with gold buttons. Tender is the night — and the day — with ravishingly pretty printed silk dresses, decorated with bows and ruf-

PARIS REPORT

les. Colours were sweet blue and rose pink, with bolder orange or red trimming to bustier bodices and Spanish flared skirts.

Valentino was also young and flirtatious. Frothy spotted dresses whipped round the bodice and burst into exuberant frills at the knee. This was an exceptionally pretty collection where small flower prints were mixed with argyle check, and short sharp dresses with languorous longer lines.

Ungaro's prints were wild mixtures of colour and pattern that looked most graceful as soft pyjama trousers and most fun as short ruffled dresses. Dior had very strong colours

and an elegant Leslie Caron in the audience.

The whacky new Chanel image has rubbed off on the once staid couture houses. Hermès, whose young designer Eric Berghère has already sharpened the well-bred designs, was in quiet mood this season, apart from a strong goop in sophisticated denim, a runaway Paris success story.

Azzedine Alaïa is not clinging quite so close to the curves, and introduced mid-calf dresses and whirly skirts. His flaring shorts and lacy dresses gave Alaïa's body-conscious clothes a softer edge. But cling went with a swing for his second-skin stretch swimwear.

Suzi Menkes



UNCARO: pleats and flowers

ALAÏA: swing and cling

SAINT LAURENT: girly gingham

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FIRST PERSON

Hilary Spiers

Strangers in the night

Halloween may be a week away, but now is the time to curb over-enthusiasm

Every day, or so it seems to the anxious parent, grim confirmation of man's inhumanity to child makes news. Primary school children are, quite properly, deliberately terrified at school with a film about the dangers of talking to strangers, or accepting gifts from them. But still children are abducted, violated, tortured.

Yet on at least one occasion a year, children are encouraged or, at the very least, given tacit approval to seek out strangers, soliciting the very sweets they are normally forbidden to accept. Without parental supervision, they are allowed to roam the neighbourhood, knocking on the doors of people they may not know and, on penalty of a tick, to demand a treat.

The victims of these attentions are inconvenienced, pestered and sometimes threatened if they invoke their right to refuse these beggars. A friend who was trying to quiet a fractious baby disturbed by the constant knocking posted "No Trick or Treats" on her door. The disappointed caller balanced a milk bottle on her doorknob, which smashed at her feet when she later opened the door. On another occasion, the cars of those people who declined to "treat" the children were deliberately scratched, or front doors were heavily crayoned.

reports of razor blades secreted in apples, and of poisoned sweets. A sick revenge indeed, but the papers are full of the unbalanced behaviour of a small minority towards children. So why put them deliberately at risk?

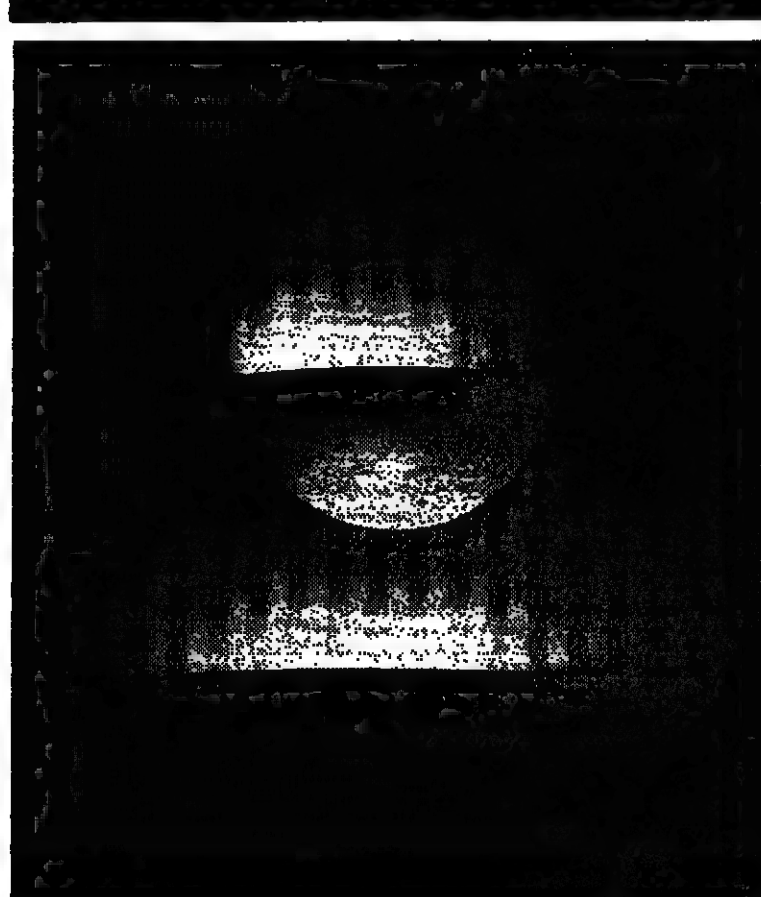
Recent years have seen the virtual disappearance of the Guy on display before Bonfire Night. Children are not fools: they can see the weakness of a gambit which permits some people to look the other way and hurry by at no expense.



compared with the near certainty of reward if the punter is spared on his own doorstep. This is highway robbery brought home.

Nobody likes to be thought mean-spirited or just plain mean, especially when the disappointed party is likely to identify the miser and kiljoy with earpiercing clarity next day in the supermarket. But in an age of regrettably high risk and increasing disregard for the feelings and wellbeing of others, what kind of favour or treat are we really affording our children by meekly succumbing to their infant extortion?

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THE TIMES DIARY

Sanctions with Rosie

Was a cider-swilling reception to blame for the shock European Parliament vote on Tuesday night for a Communist resolution seeking punitive sanctions against South Africa? Minutes before the narrow five-vote division a goodly number of centre and right-wing Euro-MPs were at a party organized by British Tories to celebrate *British Week*, an exhibition of British goods including cider, cheeses and pork pies. A spokesman assures me that all British Conservative members, under a three-line whip to vote, had left the party by voting time; nevertheless, according to the official figures, about a dozen failed to vote. Perhaps it was the Christian Democrats who failed to make it back in time: 39 failed to vote. At least British Labour MEPs were in no doubt as to where their duties lay. They boycotted the party over ideological objections to the plus-flours and tweeds on show — which, they said, presented an upper-class image of Britain.

Orlov's move

A British university could soon have the chance to sign up Yuri Orlov, the 62-year-old Soviet dissident released by Gorbachev before the Reykjavik summit. Orlov comes to Britain in December, and his friend, John Macdonald QC, tells me that although he has been offered research positions at both Stanford and Cornell universities, "he will certainly be looking at the possibility of working in Europe, and that includes Britain". A prominent human rights campaigner, Orlov is also one of the world's leading nuclear physicists. He now wants to engage in more theoretical research.

● Following Wednesday night's Booker Prize, Kingsley Amis's publishers have received orders for no fewer than 20,000 copies of *The Old Devils* — a record, according to the National Book League.

Tall tales

Kingsley Amis's victory aside, the high point of the evening was a splendidly comical post-prandial speech by the chairman of the judges, Anthony Thwaite, casting his mind back a hundred years to the Booker ceremony of 1886. He recalled that one contender that year was Henry James's *The Bostonians*, which had impressed the then chairman of the judges, Edmund Gosse. Alas, Thwaite reported, James was an American, and was therefore disqualified. Although two contending books were by the young George Gissing ("infinitely depressing, but truly serious"), the real battle was between Rider Haggard's *King Solomon's Mines* and the front runner, Robert Louis Stevenson's *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge*. Unfortunately, Thwaite confessed, crucial gaps in the historical record meant the identity of the winner was lost.

BARRY FANTONI



Inoperable

More gremlins at the House of Commons printers. Tory MP Sir John Biggs-Davison has found his parliamentary question to the Northern Ireland Secretary, Tom King, about the working of the Anglo-Irish agreement has been printed as a request for a statement about "the operation on the Anglo-Irish Agreement". "Would there have been," says Biggs-Davison, trustee of the Friends of the Union and one of the agreement's severest critics.

Undiplomatic

It is not only the Foreign Office who are sticklers for protocol. The US Ambassador to Luxembourg, Jean Gerard, is said to be in hot water with the State Department for a supposed breach of etiquette. Earlier this month, she left her post to travel to Paris for talks with foreign diplomats attached to Unesco and cabled an account of her adventures and ideas for a revamped version of Unesco to Vice-President George Bush and the State Department. When the official US observer at Unesco, Richard Miller, got to hear about her visit from Unesco delegates, he cabled a protest to Washington saying it was simply against rules for envoys to trespass on the territory of other officials without informing them. Gerard, previously leader of America's withdrawal mission to Unesco, insists she did have State Department permission. "There's no prohibition on American Ambassadors seeing old friends in other countries," she says. PHS

It is the twin accidents of geography and timing that have made London's Big Bang echo around the world. The liberalization of the London markets started at precisely the moment when international financial markets were undergoing their most radical change in at least the past half century. International banking is being replaced by a new, worldwide securities market. Since London was already the centre of international banking, the City would have experienced enormous upheaval, whatever the fate of the London Stock Exchange and the gilt market.

Most of the guesses about the effects of the Big Bang have concerned who, among the dozens of contenders, will come out on top. A more pressing question for those outside the City is whether a global securities market is a more efficient and safer method of channelling capital around the world than the commercial banking system, which fell victim from 1982 to an intractable crisis over the inability of poorer countries to pay for their enormous debts.

The debt crisis in the developing world and the uneven pattern of growth among richer countries in the past five years caused international capital flows to switch away from the North-South direction which characterized the boom in lending to developing countries in the 1970s. Money has moved instead between the large industrial powers, mainly from Japan to the United States, propelled by a surplus of savings in

Beyond the City, a vaster explosion

by Dr Michael von Clemm

Japan, the American budget deficit and different rates of growth in the main industrial economies.

This pattern of capital flows, from large institutional savers to credit-worthy borrowers within the industrial world, was ideally suited to the securities markets. The big difference between commercial bank lending and financing through securities markets is that banks have hitherto been permanent middlemen: the risk of default stayed, with the loan, on their own books. In securities markets, the risks are passed on to the investor owning the bonds, shares or the dozens of hybrids now on offer.

Investors are more willing to take this risk when the borrower is familiar and inflation is low. Against this background, the securities industry flourished as never before. In the first half of this year, securities accounted for more than 85 per cent of the \$250

billion (at an annual rate) raised on international capital markets, compared with about 50 per cent in 1983.

The world's financial system ought, in theory, to be much safer now that the risks of acting as the funnel for international capital flows are shared among thousands, even millions, of investors rather than by a few dozen banks.

In practice, commercial banks are still acting as middlemen, and hence concentrating risk in the financial system because they are trying to make up for low profits on loans by buying and holding huge quantities of bonds instead: banks' holdings of international securities had reached \$150 billion by the end of 1985.

This is just one sign that any threat to financial stability from the new global securities markets emerging in London and elsewhere is less likely to come from the risks entailed by innovations

and heavy trading in securities than from the decay in traditional banking which these new markets imply.

The fact that the international financial system is now on a sounder footing than it was five years ago, thanks to the global equivalent of next week's Big Bang, is still not assurance enough for the stern critics of free financial markets. Taking their cue from Keynes, they argue that financial markets which are a model of efficiency are more likely — because of their liquidity and the ease with which players can trade in and out — to facilitate speculation and harm the rest of the economy.

Changing the way capital markets work will not remove distortions in the world economy. But it is true that, as international capital markets become more efficient, they put more pressure on politicians to co-ordinate their economic policies and make failures in international policy-making — of the kind which we have witnessed in the past year — much more costly.

The markets are not a cause of international economic problems any more than modern communications are a cause of political tension between countries. They do make it urgent that governments learn to settle their differences more quickly.

The author is chairman of Merrill Lynch Capital Markets. This is based on a paper to the House of Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee.

Kenneth Minogue traces the roots of the new intolerance to two sources: the centrality of the Nazi experience, and the ideological tendencies of the academic method itself

Hitler with everything

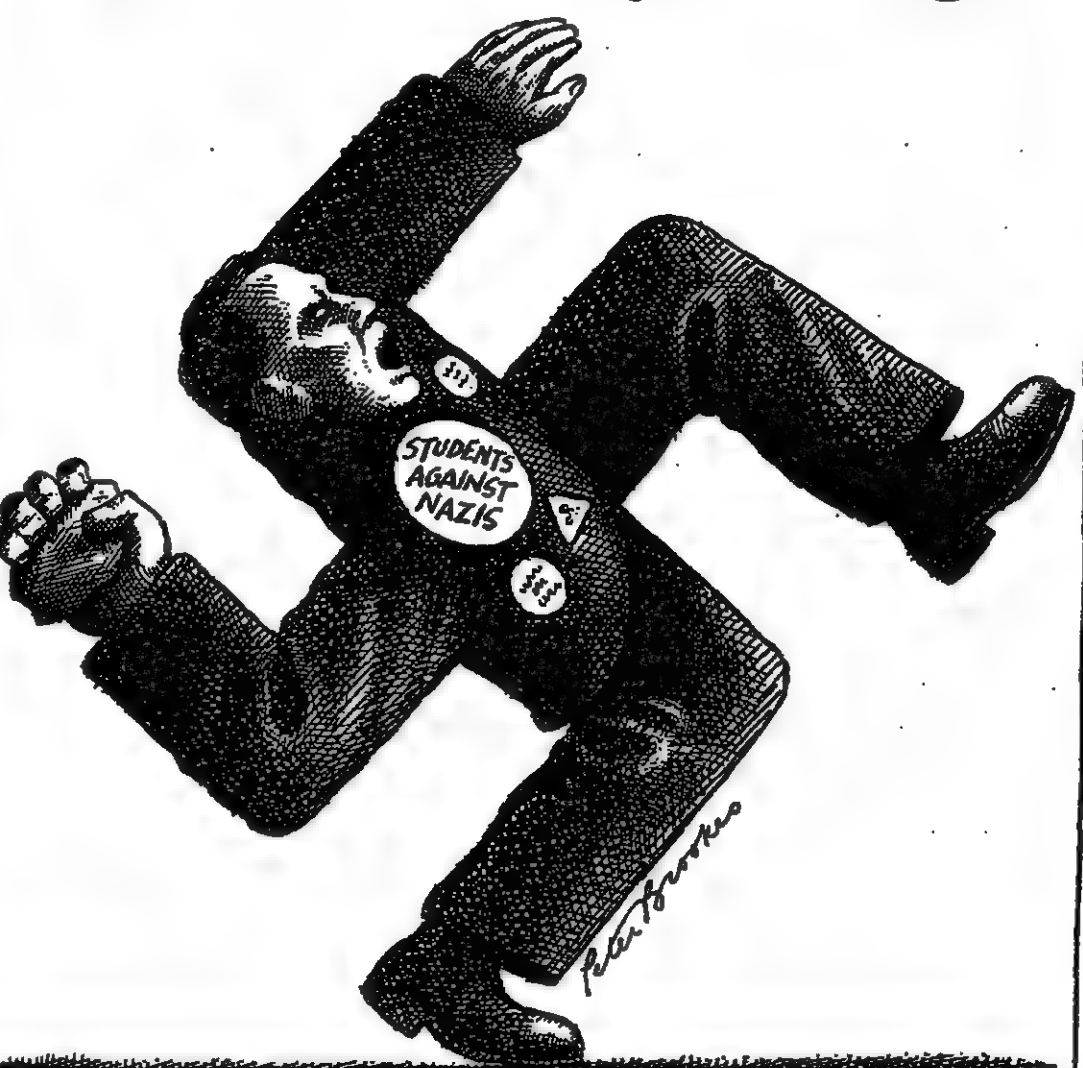
David Selbourne's troubles with Ruskin College have highlighted a curious fact: that the very institutions which ought to be the bastions of freedom and tolerance actually contain some of the most bigoted and intolerant people in our society. John Stuart Mill stated an opinion which, if arguable about society at large, would seem to be unarguable within a university: "If all mankind minus one, were of one opinion, and only one person were of the contrary opinion, mankind would be no more justified in silencing that one person, than he, if he had the power, would be justified in silencing mankind." Not, it would seem, if that person holds a hereditary view of intelligence, is a dry Conservative, defends Israeli foreign policy, or has written for *The Times*. And these examples are merely drawn from recent headlines; even more striking dogmatism is to be found in departments of philosophy or economics or some of the social sciences, where favoured doctrines often hold despotic sway.

This condition of things finds no reflection in academic rhetoric. "Criticism" is still honorific in the mouths of dons; "orthodoxy" largely a term of abuse. The heroic rebel is admired, just so long as, like Socrates, he is safely dead. The live rebel is more likely to face ostracism.

Academic intolerance, however, has diverse roots according to whether it is primarily manifested by student activists or by dons themselves. The first of these roots lies in one of the great moral endeavours of the twentieth century Europeans: namely to make the Nazi Holocaust of the Jews unthinkable for all future time. Here was a conviction so powerful, and apparently so rationally grounded, that it must necessarily override all lesser considerations. The world must be saved from a replay of Nazism, and denying a platform to believers in evil might seem to be the way to do it.

No one who has experienced a quite physical sense of dizziness and disorientation at the discovery that there are a few people who actually deny the historical reality of the Holocaust will fail to understand the force of this conviction. Such a denial of the Holocaust, to the extent that it is more than the eccentricity of a few lunatics, would seem to mean that there is no moral truth, no matter how overpowering it may seem, which will infallibly command itself to the whole of the human race. Mankind, it would seem, is irredeemably subject to whatever gusts of thought and feeling might blow. That the Holocaust was possible at all was bad enough; that it might recur is intolerable.

Yet the history of the last half century suggests that in moral questions no less than in military, we are always ready and eager to fight the last war all over again. Specifically, the question is: precisely what is the lesson we should learn from the Nazi experience. It can hardly be the moral principle that mass slaughter is wrong: we knew that on general grounds already. It is more likely to be the practical judgement that certain sorts of opinion lead, or are likely to lead, to evil political acts. But that conclusion forces upon us several further difficult problems. What precisely is the evil consequence? On the narrowest view, it is the racial genetics and political paranoia of *Mein Kampf*, which is hardly these days a candidate for popular acclaim, though it could do with watching. More generally, the death-dealing opinion might be whatever goes by the name of "racism", and such seems to be the current view. But the idea of racism has, in recent decades, shown a remarkable propensity to expand its scope, and is in danger of destroying its effectiveness as a pejorative by becoming merely the tool of aggressive political sects. If it becomes "racist" virtually to breathe, as is threatened by the concept of "institutional racism", then the idea will finally



We must invoke the words of Herten: They are not the doctors — they are the disease

have lost all connection with its founding experience. Sometimes the practical conclusion to be drawn from the Nazi experience is extended in another direction by generalizing it even further. What we are thought to have learned from the Nazi experience is the evils of something called "discrimination", which occurs whenever we treat human beings differently on the basis of natural and unchangeable physical characteristics, such as colour or sex.

On the other hand, twentieth century experience shows that evils on a similar scale, and similarly horrific, may be committed by those whose basic ideas and explicit opinions would seem to be of unimpeachable purity. It was not the pursuit of any racialist form of nonsense that led Stalin and Pol Pot to massacres on the same scale as those of Hitlerian genocide: they merely wanted to build, so they said, a juster and happier society. And if we remember that there have been people of racist opinions who have not gone on to implement them in genocide, it becomes hard to deny that the relationship between belief on the one hand and an evil political policy on the other is highly contingent.

We really do seem to be back then, to the most pessimistic hypothesis, which is that the human propensity to evil is always a risk, that it cannot be reliably diagnosed in advance from the occurrence of any particular opinion, and that we had better remain on the *qui vive* against recurrence. It is not only freedom which requires constant vigilance. Survival requires it, too.

The grand moral project of our century — that we should actually learn something from the Nazi experience — has been shipwrecked by shallow fanatics keen to win an argument by introducing Hitlerian comparisons into every discussion. For these reasons, the basic contention of the student fanatics in our midst — that they

are courageously stamping on an evil before it gets out of control — cannot be accepted. Indeed, we must invoke the words of Herten: They are not the doctors, they are the disease.

Yet we cannot attribute the persecutory zeal to be found in universities, most recently at Ruskin College and in Bristol University, simply to the degeneration of a noble moral idea. For the other roots of academic intolerance can be found closer to the academic tradition itself. These roots will certainly be found, for example, in the prevalence of ideological doctrines in all the discursive subjects taught in universities, where "ideology" means a comprehensive doctrine diagnosing the evils of the very social structure we are thought to live under, and advocating a process of liberation into a supposedly better world. On the assumption that a doctrine has at last grasped the saving truth about the world, then it might indeed be thought both undesirable and dangerous to permit other opinions, necessarily false and misleading, to be spread.

Marxists constitute by far the largest and most influential of these groups, though they are by no means the only exemplars. It is significant, however, that virtually all recent cases of suppression of free speech have been inspired by left-wing ideas.

Marxism, particularly in universities, comes in all shapes and sizes, and there are certainly some Marxists who are innocent of this kind of intolerance. But it hardly needs arguing that the dominant tendencies of Marxism is to suppress all competing opinions the moment this is possible. All Marxist revolutions, whatever the historic culture in which they become entrenched, have set about the task of suppressing all intellectual opposition the very moment they attain power; and the fact that some Marxists in Britain attempt to do the same thing in universities even before they have attained political power testifies to the same point. It is, in fact, by looking at the characteristics of ideologies like Marxism that we can begin to understand the surprising intolerance of academic culture. Academic life has two aspects: the discussion of competing views and opinions earned on between equals, which for some purposes includes students; and the pedagogic activity of teaching the young, which is

distinctly a relation of unequals.

Pedagogy is a dangerous business even where what is to be transmitted is the generally uncontroversial material of the school teacher. In universities where doctrines which might well affect the conduct of the whole scope of life are often at issue, irrelevant salvationist passions commonly arise, leading to the division of universities into bitterly competing schools. And it is commonly the case that the proprietors of such saving doctrines — in such subjects as political philosophy or English literature — come to prefer the authority of the rostrum to the rough-and-tumble of controversy with equals. It's more relaxing and the clear water of truth is less likely to be muddied by the perverse misunderstandings of the uninitiated.

Academic intolerance, however, is no less complicated than the moral implications of the Holocaust. Just as in that case there is no clear and unambiguous implication to guide our steps in a complicated moral and political world, so with academic intolerance one cannot just invoke the canons of freedom of speech and recommend that dons should be more tolerant in their intellectual dealings with one another. For it is the business of those who profess a subject to be clear about what is legitimately controversial in their discipline, and what, on the contrary, is to be judged mere chicanery.

There can be little doubt that the broadening of the academic world and the expansion of universities has brought a lot of chicanery into universities; but it remains true that the judgement of just what is, and what is not, beyond the disciplinary pale is itself a matter of judgement. The best we can hope for is that judgement on these matters is vital and continuous, and that the worse gives way to the better.

We can, however, do one thing more than this. We can move the whole discussion away from the question of rights and freedom of speech. We may observe that whatever the academic judgement may be, civilized conduct between fellow citizens, rather than the barbarities of tribal or class warfare, is a necessary condition of academic life.

The author is professor of political science at the London School of Economics.

David Watt

The crumbling of Pinochet

Santiago Chile produces an acute sense of schizophrenia. Physically one feels infinitely isolated. The towering snows of the Andes can be seen at the end of half the streets of the capital, splendidly but firmly cutting off the outside world. And yet here, at the very last station on the line, is this strangely familiar city peopled with recognizable faces. European styles, and names which are English, French and German if they are not Spanish. The Latin-American stereotypes do not apply here. This is no corrupt banana republic, nor, though there is serious poverty, is it a revolutionary mass of aboriginal hunger seething beneath a thin crust of old Spanish plutocracy.

It feels, in fact, with its 11 million people, two-thirds of them middle class, its relatively sophisticated economy, its strong democratic tradition, its lively intelligentsia and its faintly old-fashioned provincialism, like a small European country stuck in a time-war of about 25 years ago.

That, perhaps, is why Europe cares about what happens in Chile, when it is almost entirely indifferent to the fate of, say, Peru or Paraguay or Colombia. The history of Chile in the past 20 years is a laboratory reconstruction of what has happened twice on the European fringes — in Spain and in Greece — and could happen in apparently far more settled environments: an old-fashioned liberal democratic constitution permits a minority Marxist government (Allende's) to take power quite legally. That government wrenches the society so violently that opposition becomes frenetic and chaos supervenes. The army takes over, to the general relief, but it still there 13 years later to the general disgust, displaying a crude and sometimes brutal paranoia to all serious opposition.

This situation has become an obsession of the European left, because echoes of the mythology of the Spanish civil war have transformed Allende from the incompetent idealist he was into a full-scale hero and martyr. But I must admit that it is impossible for a European visitor to be here for more than 24 hours without heartily wishing to see the back of General Augusto Pinochet and his junta — not simply because if they do not depart, the cycle of left-wing violence and military repression will inevitably quicken but because the country itself so obviously deserves and is ready for something far more civilized.

How is this to be brought about? Pinochet, at 70, shows every intention of remaining in power until the late 1990s if he can, and on the face of it there is nothing much to stop him. He controls the army, which is the force that really matters. The majority of public opinion evidently wishes to return to democracy, but sections of it are always susceptible to scare tactics. The discovery six weeks ago of quite large arms dumps, of Cuban origin, and Pinochet's subsequent escape from assassination by Marxist guerrillas, have given the

regime plenty to scare people with. The conventional wisdom of external comment has been that these events have strengthened Pinochet's hand so much that he is now virtually invulnerable. And yet here in Santiago one is not so sure. He now seems weaker, precisely because the various actors in the drama have been obliged to look seriously at the consequences of his demise.

For a start, the Reagan administration, which fears the growing communist backlash against Pinochet and which holds the key to the resolution of Chile's massive debt problem, is now explicitly demanding that it should take visible steps to prepare for the return of democracy.

Then the old Chilean political parties, which are supposed to be banned but which Pinochet has rather shrewdly allowed to flourish and bicker hopelessly in a total power vacuum, are also beginning to show real signs of purpose and unity. The non-Marxist parties are now considering the choice of a common "leader".

But the key to the situation remains the attitude of the military themselves. In order to stay in power Pinochet would almost certainly have to violate the 1980 Constitution which he himself invented. Under its terms the five-man junta is supposed to pick a new presidential candidate in 1989 and submit him to a "yes or no" referendum. If the answer is "no", Pinochet is permitted another 12 months of office. But he must then call an open presidential election whose winner would preside over the election of a congress and the resumption of a more or less normal democracy.

What has become very clear since the assassination attempt is that there is no majority even among the present members of the junta for proposing Pinochet as his own successor. The naval and air force chiefs have both come out more or less publicly to that effect in recent weeks, and the head of the police is said to be of the same mind. Pinochet would therefore have to rely on the army, first to override the other services to get himself nominated and second to rig the subsequent referendum and/or election. The military are a caste apart and nobody in the political world has much idea what the army intends, but faint echoes of military doubt are beginning to emerge about the propriety of overriding a large majority public opinion.

Here is the central and saving oddity of Chile: that in this military dictatorship, the democratic tradition still counts. In his peculiar way, even Pinochet appears to recognize this. Why does he allow as much opposition as he does? The answer is that until fairly recently he could rely on the fact that the majority of Chileans were probably prepared, in their hearts, to accept him as the lesser of available evils. As Pinochet's quite large arms dumps, of Cuban origin, and a credible alternative at last emerges, this basis is, thank God, beginning to crumble.

moreover... Miles Kington

Bang, bang, bang, ouch

It was eerie in the City of London last Saturday. Usually as dead as a doornail, it was open all day for a full-scale practice for the Big Bang. High-class tailors were pretending to sell pink-striped shirts to their yuppy customers. Secretaries were dashing hither and yonder with make-believe cups of coffee. The pound pretended to fall and the dollar did a superb job of acting a recovery against the yen, with rave reviews on Monday.

It was all so realistic that I was not unduly surprised to see a man on a tenth-floor window-sill threatening to jump. I was more surprised to see him carry out his threat and fall lifeless at my feet. "Don't worry," said my companion, the PR man Adrian Wardour-Street, "it's only a dummy. It's the symbolic enactment of suicide by the head of a firm which has been made bankrupt by the Big Bang. He won't be committing suicide in real life until next Saturday. Come on, let's go and have lunch."

The only reason that I was in the City on a Saturday was that Adrian wanted to involve me in the Big Bang-Through. Let's pretend to have lunch, were his words, and I'll pretend to give you a big scoop. I pretended to think it was a good idea, so here we were, entering the portals of Harley's, the famous fish restaurant. A waiter ushered us to our table and placed two small computers before us.

"What do we want computers for lunch for?" I said. "Not computers," said Adrian. "Menus. Look, you press this knob... and this... and this... and you not only get the list of fish available today, but the market price in 30 major fishing ports, plus the latest on the fluctuation of white wine prices. Harley's is going hi-tech too. Hello! The mackerel has fallen several points against the bream! I think I'll go for the mackerel while it's on a downward curve."

I went for the bouillabaisse. "Are you sure the bouillabaisse is a wise choice, old boy?" Adrian said. "French economy is a bit jumpy, at the moment, what with all their bombs. I'd steer clear of anything French for a day or two."

"I don't see how French politics can possibly affect my fish stew, for heaven's sake."

"All right, all right, keep your hair on! I'm just trying to take this Big Bang-Through seriously, that's all. Good Lord, yes."

He leaned over to his computer. "There's an absolute fortune to be made in barbed wire futures if we strike in the next 10 minutes. Must make a quick phone call, old boy." He half rose.

"Can't you buy and sell via your computer?" I said. Adrian had the grace to blush.

"Stupid of me. Old habits die hard." He punched a few knobs and then sat back, satisfied. "There's £2,000 profit in three minutes. Not bad, eh? Pity we're only pretending."

While we were waiting for our fish, I became absorbed in the conversation between a handsome middle-aged man and a glamorous brunette at the next table.

"My wife pretends not to understand me," the man was saying. "She doesn't seem to realize that our marriage is a pretence."

"Why don't you pretend to move in with me?" said the girl. The man seemed to smile sadly.

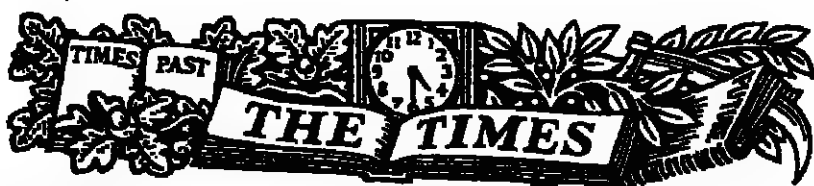
"I have to go through the motions of thinking of the children," he said. "You don't really care for me at all," she snapped. "You're just pretending."

"Of course," said the man, surprised. "This is just a run-through for next week's affair." We waited for the fish for 30 minutes. Then the waiter brought the bill. Adrian pushed it over to me. "The lunch was just pretend, of course," he said. "But the bill's real enough. You pay it, and I'll keep it for expenses. It's been fun. We must pretend to do it again, some time."

"Just a moment," I said, signing a cheque with a false name. "What about the scoop you promised?"

"Entre nous," he said. "This Big Bang is going to be an absolute fiasco. Total shambles. Computer breakdowns, fortunes going missing, markets paralyzed. Chaos. Megachaos. Tell your readers."

So I have. But in the old days that he was just pretending to give me a scoop. We'll see.



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ZEROING IN ON EUROPE

When President Reagan announced the so-called zero option in November 1981, it was regarded as a public relations triumph — but a negotiating risk. As one strategic analyst put it: "What would we do if the Russians said 'yes'?" Now, five years later, it appears they might be ready to say "yes".

The original proposal was an opening gambit by the Americans on the eve of their Geneva talks with the Soviet Union about intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) in Europe. The United States would abandon its plans to station 572 cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Western Europe if the Soviet Union would agree to dismantle some 175 triple-warhead SS-20s and 380 older SS-4 and SS-5 missiles which were then operational in Western Russia. Not only did this proposal have the attraction of simplicity, but by offering to do away with such missiles altogether, it stole some of the clothes of the peace movement.

The Russians said no, almost on principle, and there then began two years of negotiations which ended in November 1983 when the Soviets stalked out of the talks in protest over the deployment of the first batch of the new American INF missiles in Britain and West Germany. The talks resumed in 1984 in a different form, only to be blocked for most of the time by Soviet insistence that the British and French nuclear deterrents should be counted on the American side in any compromise deal over nukes.

Mr Gorbachev would now seem to have dropped this demand, only to substitute for it an equally immovable object by insisting that any INF deal should be part of a package which would also include President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI). This is despite the impression —

briefly given by the chief Soviet negotiator, Mr Viktor Karpov — that a separate INF agreement might be possible. It seems equally clear, however, that if an INF agreement does eventually emerge, it could well be built around the old zero option.

Although the American position won the approval of most Nato countries at their Nuclear Planning Group (NPG) meeting in Scotland this week, the West Germans and others have made known their disquiet. Admittedly, the zero option would achieve a long-standing Nato objective by removing some 900 SS-20 warheads which are capable of hitting targets anywhere in Western Europe (and probably freezing the SS-20s in the Far East). But it would leave in place several hundred shorter-range Soviet missiles in Eastern Europe, notably the SS-22 which, with a range of about 500 miles, could still inflict awful punishment on a number of Western European countries. It was on West German insistence that the final communiqué from the NPG meeting at Gleneagles included a reference to the need for some agreement on these weapons to accompany any deal on INF.

It is also true that the famous 1979 twin-track decision to install new American INF in Western Europe was originally prompted not by the threat of the SS-20, but by the need to place the United States' nuclear umbrella more firmly above Western Europe. In the *détente* era, when it looked as if the superpowers might do a deal on their own over strategic weapons, a number of European leaders, notably Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, became nervous over the American commitment to its allies.

Even without an American sell-out to Moscow, could the Europeans rely on the United

States being prepared to launch its strategic weapons on behalf of its allies at a time when the Soviet Union had achieved nuclear parity with it? Nato armies had a large selection of ageing, battlefield nuclear weapons in Europe. But their longer-range nuclear response (apart from the "last-ditch" deterrents of Britain and France) was limited to aircraft like the F-111 whose chances of penetrating Soviet air defences were, even then, less than convincing.

It can be argued that if the threat to Western Europe were removed under the zero option, the need for Nato INF should have disappeared too. But the inferiority of allied conventional forces leaves the alliance still dependent upon a nuclear defence. That is why it is being argued now that an agreement on such weapons in the European theatre must be linked to one on conventional arms as well.

Politically, it might prove difficult for the Reagan administration to turn down the chance of an INF agreement based on the zero option — particularly as the idea came from Washington in the first place. It was in recognition of this and of the need to show allied solidarity that most defence ministers at Gleneagles signalled their support for the American position — albeit with provisos.

But it would be preferable from Europe's point of view for the superpowers to negotiate a substantial reduction in INF on both sides, rather than their complete removal — for the time being anyway. At the risk of once more making themselves seem intolerably perverse allies, they should lose no opportunity to make this clear to Washington. And if it is necessary to share the political heat of modifying the zero option, they should be prepared to express their views publicly.

THE MONEY PROBLEM

When the Labour Government first began to set targets for growth in the money supply 10 years ago, it was a broad measure of money, M3, which the then Chancellor, Mr Denis Healey, chose to target. Since then M3 has remained, in one guise or another, one of the touchstones of financial policy. So when the Governor of the Bank of England, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, suggested in his Loughborough University lecture this week that it might make sense to stop setting targets for broad money, it marked a period in monetary history.

Yet the Government's problem remains what it has been now for several years, namely how to convince the world, and in particular the financial world, that it is following the right road at a time when the windows are all misted up. It has been clear for a long time that the broad measures of money have been subject to distortions which make it difficult to assess the significance of monetary trends.

These distortions are carefully catalogued in the Governor's lecture. While for most of the 1970s broad money grew more slowly than total spending in the economy,

since 1980 it has grown faster. The rate of growth in sterling M3, in particular, has recently accelerated, largely it would seem as a result of changes in the banks' commercial strategies involving their competition with building societies.

This presents the authorities with a problem. Is it better to set targets, even if they prove to be the wrong targets, or should the Government risk leaving the aims of monetary policy vague? The Governor put it very clearly: "Where there is a reliable relationship between money growth and nominal income, a simple, publicly-understood, monetary rule has considerable advantages, serving as an external discipline on the authorities and as a guide to both the financial markets and the wider economy as to the authorities' likely behaviour.... But these advantages are lost if in practice the rule proves to be too facile and, as a result, needs to be frequently adjusted or overridden."

When these distortions became evident a year ago, the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, abandoned the broad money target at the time of his

Mansion House speech. At the time of the Budget he re-instated it, for one year ahead, since he judged that the balance of advantage lay in emphasising the continuity of policy and the seriousness with which the Government regarded the level of liquidity in the economy. In the coming Budget he may take a third view — though it remains to be seen whether broad money aggregates will have regained a measure of reliability by then.

Whatever the decision, the problem of maintaining confidence in the Government's financial policies will remain. There is much to be said in an imperfect world for adopting an unambiguous target for the exchange rate as a full member of the European Monetary System. That would at least signal that Britain was determined to pursue policies consistent with German levels of inflation. If this remains the agenda for the time being, then it must be presumed that the Government will reinstate a target for broad money when the fog over the figures clears.

It will not be enough simply to state a commitment towards disinflation — even for a Government with as good a record on inflation as this one.

SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

The Nobel prizes for science and medicine were shared between eight research workers this year. Once again United States scientists took a lion's share. By chance the awards coincided with two investigations into the state of academic science in Britain, commissioned by the Advisory Board for the Research Councils, ABRC, which counsels the Government on the health of basic research. These studies drew a bleak picture.

The reputation of British science was found to be trailing behind six major western countries. Britain is spending less money and distinguished scientists increasingly choose to work abroad. Against that background, the prospect of British universities and medical schools producing many more Nobel laureates looks poor. Does this matter? For those who care for Britain's economic place in a technological age, the answer must be yes.

First, there is the widely assumed link between success in science and technology and economic success. It rests on the conviction that the biggest strides in productivity in the 1950s and 1960s, whether

through innovations in chemicals or developments in electronics, were associated just as much with new technology as with capital or economies of scale.

Secondly, there is intellectual value reflected in basic research on the origins of the universe and of humankind. Economic returns may come from such research, but none should be demanded. It is worth remembering the time scales involved in developing research findings. Pioneering work 50 years ago on the electron microscope — on which countless subsequent discoveries were totally dependent — earned this year a Nobel honour for Professor Ernst Ruska of West Germany. Similarly in medicine, there was recognition for a fundamental revelation 30 years ago of the molecules that stimulate the growth of nerve fibres and other cells.

Thirdly, the Government needs to acquire new knowledge and new technology for areas such as defence, health, safety and environmental protection. Some of this work will be carried out commercially if the legal

framework is right; some will not.

Science's different branches may have distinct aims, but a single piece of research may serve one or more of them. Scientists ought to be able to move freely between the different fields. Alas, there are a number of rigidities in the British system. Defence research is too dominant. The seeming inability (for bureaucratic and secrecy reasons) of British scientists to move, several times if need be in the course of a career, between academic, industry and government projects creates intellectual cul de sacs.

The faults lie with the scientific community as well as with government. Scientists will always complain of shortages of money. Governments can never give enough. But as Professor Malcolm Longair argued in *The Times* last week, scientists themselves have done little to pull down the great wall of incomprehension that separates them from the public; and this Government still has no clear set of scientific themes which can attract the attention of the electorate and win the support of taxpayers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Race tensions in Haringey Council

From Councillor W.A. Blackburne Sir, The evil of using public funds for political purposes and malign political causes which you identify in your editorial entitled "Exploiting race" (October 21) is more pervasive than you imagine. The London Borough of Haringey, which is as much a pathfinder in these matters as Brent, is committed to a programme of "training" 23 women council employees in the art of "Assertion Training".

According to a recent report to Haringey's all-female "Women's Committee", the aim is to establish "a network of internal Assertion Trainers" (of whom 18 are to be black and minority ethnic women) who will then train other women council employees in the art.

The 24-day training programme includes courses in "racism awareness", how to "address" and "challenge" what is described as "a heterosexist standpoint," and how to raise women's consciousness of racism.

I need hardly add that these persons are additional to the growing numbers of so-called "Race Equality Officers" and "Women's Equality Officers" now on Haringey's payroll.

The tensions and communal strife to which all of this is leading will have been apparent to anyone who attended last Monday's chaotic and hate-laden meeting of Haringey Council. Most sinister of all was the invitation extended to a Sinn Féin spokesman who, amid applause and approval from the Labour councillors, spread a message of hatred and discord to the council chamber and (via closed circuit TV cameras) to the public outside.

Come to meetings such as these, Sir, and you will be under no illusion about the ugly truth which lies beneath the smooth and glossy facade of the Labour leadership. Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM BLACKBURN, Borough of Haringey, Members' Room, Civic Centre, Wood Green, N22, October 21.

"Retaliate" in kind somehow makes this fair. A membership scheme which allows responsible away support would be welcomed by most regular supporters. The members of this club, who have considerable experience of mid-week, mid-table games where, *de facto*, the away side has no support, know that the atmosphere and entertainment value is greatly diminished. Mr Benveniste's conjectures about comparisons with the National Football League in America do not stand up in the face of this real assessment.

The Football League may well need a talented chief executive, as Mr Benveniste believes, but I think the task is to rid the league of clubs with Luton's attitude and to keep the game as a mass spectator sport, where it belongs, on grass in front of a bi-partisan, though well behaved crowd.

Yours sincerely, IAN D. SHEARER, Secretary, Aston Villa London Lions Club, 3 Archdeacon Close, Farnham, Surrey.

Hospitals watchdog

From the Director of the Association of Independent Hospitals Sir, Well done, the Lords. By voting to end Crown immunity in NHS hospitals (report, October 16) they have served the public rather better than their colleagues in the Commons.

The implications are wider than they may appear. Quite rightly, independent hospitals have always been subjected to rigorous attention from health and safety inspectors, environmental health officers and fire authorities. At the same time they have had to put up with often half-baked inspections from health authority officials whose own hospitals have been quite deliberately excluded from the same attentions because of what might be found — as one or two forced Government enquiries have shown.

Hopefully, the Lords initiative may lead to a properly trained independent watchdog for both the NHS and the private sector. No doubt it will cost the NHS some money to put its house in order but it would certainly be in the public interest and we would welcome it.

Yours faithfully, JOHN RANDLE, Director, Association of Independent Hospitals, Buckingham Court, 8 Buckingham Gate, SW1, October 17.

Control of Angola

From Mr David I. Lee Sir, Your leading article today (October 21) made reference to Dr Jonas Savimbi heading a large army which "controls vast areas of the country and which is supported by a major section of the Angolan population". Such singularly misleading journalism does you and your readers a gross disservice.

The "vast areas" supposedly controlled by Savimbi in fact consist of the very sparsely populated Huila, Cunene, Moxico and Lunda districts and the virtually uninhabited Cuando Cubango (approximately 50 per cent of Angola's territory), where control is almost impossible to substantiate.

To claim that such population as exists in this area "supports" Savimbi's army, by implication of its own free will, frankly abuses one's credibility. Whilst many would accept that Dr Savimbi enjoys the support of the Ovambo people, support as is implied in your article has never been independently verified.

Yours sincerely, DAVID I. LEE, 34 Brunswick Gardens, W8, October 21.

Arts and industry

From Mr Nigel Gardner Sir, The answer to Brian Morris's question (October 7) about the destiny of his philosophy graduates is that the State needs very many philosophers... and historians, linguists, classicists, etc. It is important, however, that graduates in these disciplines should have been trained in an environment likely to make them alert and sympathetic to the potential utility of the new technology.

Under the Computers in Teaching Initiative scheme, many university courses have been redesigned to capitalise on the pedagogic advantages of computer-mediated instruction, while simultaneously enhancing the employment prospects of new graduates. Particular inroads have been made in the humanities, with significant developments, *inter alia*, in philosophy (at Leeds), literature (at Durham), classics (at Liverpool) and most other arts disciplines.

Brian Morris's doubts about the possibility of commercial sponsorship of degree courses in classics or philosophy are also unjustified. In the USA, and here in Europe, significant commercial sponsorship has been attracted to such courses, without any challenge to the autonomy of universities in defining their own curricula and admissions policies.

Seeking new head for Unesco

From Dr P. T. Matthews, FRS Sir, Your leading article (October 20) on the future of Unesco is timely and to the point. Unesco is an organisation of great potential good and it is a tragedy that its powers have been so perverted that both the USA and the UK have withdrawn their support. Now that there is the prospect of appointing a new director-general you say, quite rightly, that

Britain should continue to make it clear that it will rejoin Unesco only if it again becomes worthy of its charter, its management is cleansed of placemen and its programme focussed on well-defined goals which have universal support.

I would advocate a more positive stance. The danger, as you point out, is that the present regime may be re-established "as the fall-back choice in a large field in which no rival has decisive backing". This could be avoided if the UK (and hopefully also the USA) could give clear support to a candidate for the director-generalship whose appointment would give them strong grounds seriously to review their present position.

Such a candidate is hard to find but not impossible. He should be an academic of international standing (Nobel prize or equivalent in his own field); a person who has demonstrated leadership and administrative ability in an international environment; someone conscious of the political dimension of education, science and culture, particularly in the Third World, who has exerted an influence in this area even-handedly between the East and the West, so that he is acceptable also to the Soviet Union.

Positive support for such a candidate would ideally complement the negative threat of the Japanese to orchestrate a mass exodus if no change is made in the status quo, and help to bring about the return to normality which is so urgently required.

Yours sincerely, PAUL T. MATTHEWS, University of Cambridge, Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, Silver Street, Cambridge, October 21.

Sale of Constable

From Mr Hugh Leggatt Sir, In 1801 a young artist, dismayed by the Royal Academy Exhibition Committee's rejection of his landscape in oils, was told by the then President, Benjamin West: "Don't be disheartened, young man, we shall hear of you again. You must have loved nature very much before you could have painted this. Always remember, Sir, that light and shadow never stand still." These prophetic words were never forgotten by John Constable.

The truth of Benjamin West's avuncular advice is demonstrated so magnificently by Constable's "Flatford Lock and Mill", which was accepted for exhibition at the Royal Academy in 1812 and which you report (October 15) is to be sold at auction in London on November 21.

Would it not be splendid if this masterpiece of light and shadow were to be acquired for the nation? Yours faithfully, HUGH LEGGATT, Leggatt Brothers, 17 Duke Street, St James's, SW1.

The Church and Aids

From the Reverend Nicolas Stacey Sir, Dr Edward Norman's article (October 13) on the Christian attitude to Aids is as timely as it is important, especially as he is seen as being on the conservative wing of the Church.

As the Aids crisis grows and spreads to the heterosexual community, the danger of a homophobic backlash increases. The Churches have a significant role in influencing public attitudes and helping to prevent this as well as a caring ministry to those who have got the disease.

Earlier this year I was worshipping at an Episcopal (Anglican) church in Greenwich Village, New York, where a sizeable minority of the congregation is gay, and before the service I joined a group of them who have Aids or the virus. It was clear that the acceptance, support and love they were receiving from the congregation was of critical importance to them.

Increasingly, church congregations in this country are going to have an opportunity of helping to care for people with Aids as they die, as well as being able to offer the Christian hope of a life hereafter.

Yours faithfully, NICOLAS STACEY, The Old Vicarage, Selling, Faversham, Kent, October 21.

Thus IBM UK Ltd have significant involvement in sponsoring educational experiments in a wide range of disciplines from engineering to history and PPE. Other manufacturers, such as Digital, have parallel schemes of sponsorship.

University institutions are being challenged to show that, even within the framework of humanities education, it is possible to produce graduates well equipped to meet the needs of society in the 21st century.

Yours faithfully, NIGEL GARDNER, Computers in Teaching Initiative Support Service, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath, Avon.

ON THIS DAY

OCTOBER 24 1918

One year after the Commons voted to make women eligible for members, Viscountess Astor contested her husband's seat at Plymouth — it had fallen vacant when he succeeded to his father's viscountcy. She was elected as a Unionist by a substantial majority, and continued to hold the seat until her retirement in 1946. The total number of women was reduced to 21 in 1928 and to 18 in 1963.

WOMEN AS M.P.'S COMMONS MAJORITY OF 11 TO 1

WESTMINSTER, Wednesday. The House of Commons decided tonight, by 374 votes to 25, that it was desirable that a Bill should be passed forthwith making women eligible as members of Parliament. It was the natural corollary to the decision taken by Parliament earlier in the year to extend the franchise to women, and although the House had never before discussed the question on its merits, Mr Herbert Samuel had not proceeded far with the opening speech in support of the proposal before it was obvious that he was preaching to the converted. He argued that women had a distinctive point of view, which ought to have direct expression in Parliament, and his only fear was that too few women would probably be elected to Parliament rather than too many. Women must be 30 years of age before they can exercise the franchise, but Mr Samuel hoped that so much arbitrary discrimination would apply to their election to Parliament.

The women's cause was also strongly pleaded from the opposite Front Bench by LORD ROBERT CECIL. He likewise did not think that a very large number of women would be elected at any rate for a considerable time, and declared that he would have liked to have seen the resolution expanded, so as to allow women to enter his own profession and that of a solicitor.

Opposition came from SIR FREDERICK BANBURY and Mr. PETO who declared that 90 per cent of the women had not the slightest desire to enter the House or to live under laws made by members of their own sex. Mr. ARNOLD WARD on the other hand, intimated that there was no opposition to the proposal from any of the organised forces which had for years conducted a campaign against the enfranchisement of women.

Mr. ASQUITH supported the motion as the logical outcome of the grant of votes to women. It seemed to him that, as the House had swallowed the camel, it ought not to strain at the gnat. The atmosphere in which Parliament used to discuss the women's question was momentarily revived by SIR HEDWORTH MEUX who contended that the House of Commons was not a fit place for any respectable woman to sit in. But the House was in no mood for pleasantries about Gladstone and soon afterwards the "Old Guard" found itself routed in the division lobby.

[From the Parliamentary report]

... Mr. ADAMSON (Fife, W. Lab.) said it would be a profound mistake to refuse them admittance. He commented on the revolutionising of ideas regarding conditions in the workroom which had followed the entry of women into industry. Wherever women had entered, the human element played a much larger part than it did before.

HOUSE "NOT A FIT PLACE"

ADMIRAL of the FLEET SIR H. MEUX (Portsmouth, U.) opposed the resolution, not because he did not love the female sex — he adored them. (Laughter.) The question he did not want to see there was because he did not think that it was a fit place for any respectable woman to sit in. (Laughter.) Let them think of the routine of the House, sitting from 3 to 11. Was that a thing for a woman to do? ("Why not?") No woman could bear the physical strain of Parliament as it was at present. (An hon. member: "What about all-night sittings?") Then it would not be a question of "Who goes home?" but of "Who will take me home?" (Laughter.) He agreed that women had done marvellously in this war and that the strain they had gone through had, if possible, made the women of this country more beautiful than before. He did not believe there was a single member of the House who in his heart hoped to see women sitting there. He did not believe the majority of women had any desire to be represented by women in that House... The Army and the Navy had never been consulted on this momentous question.

Sober joys

From Dr Crawford Knox Sir, The Consumers' Association brochure, "Christmas Books from Which?", complete with its first-page Christmas decorations, has just reached me. Under the section, "Family reference", the first item is, "How to arrange your divorce realistically" — details of their book, *Divorce: Legal Procedures and Financial Facts*.

The second and third items are "Wills and probate" and "What to do when someone dies"; and the fourth, *The Which? Encyclopedia of the Home*, is illustrated by first-aid casualties.

Can your readers offer more eloquent commentary on the coming season of love and good cheer? Yours faithfully, CRAWFORD KNOX, Hampton Weekes, The Ridgeway, Boars Hill, Oxford, October 19.

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Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1249.9 (-12.5)
FT-SE 100
1572.5 (-17.1)
Bargains
24743
USM (Datastream)
124.63 (-0.22)

THE POUND

US Dollar
1.4235 (-0.0075)
W German mark
2.8370 (-0.0028)
Trade-weighted
67.5 (-0.1)

£19m fall
at B&C

Half-time profits of the
Cayzer family's British and
Commonwealth Shipping
group fell to £25.4 million
from £44.2 million last time,
as foreshadowed earlier this
year.

McKechnie up

McKechnie Brothers has
justified its shareholders' faith
in allowing it to escape the
predatory clutches of Wil-
liams Holdings and Evered by
beating its profits forecast.

Broker sold

The merchant bank Brown
Shelley has acquired the
Leicester-based stockbroker
Wishere Baldwin for
£555,000, adding 7,000 private
clients to their existing
40,000. Wishere Baldwin will
officially become part of
Brown Shelley on Big Bang
day on Monday.

Bestwood buy

Bestwood has completed
the acquisition of Property
Building and Maintenance
(London) for £2.09 million
through the issue of 601,923
shares. PBM, a private com-
pany, maintains, refurbishes
and cleans commercial prop-
erty in greater London.

Garnar stake

Strong & Fisher had won
acceptance of 4.25 per cent
from Garnar Booth shareholders
by yesterday's first closing
date and now controls 19.25
per cent. The bid has been
extended until November 6.

Hambro deal

Hambro Countrywide, the
estate agency arm of Ham-
bros, is to buy two estate
agents for £6.3 million, 3
adding 24 offices to the Ham-
bro chain, making the total
415.

US prices up

US consumer prices rose 0.3
per cent last month after a 0.2
per cent rise in August.
September durable goods or-
ders rose 4.9 per cent after a
revised 2.2 per cent August
fall.

Wall Street 22 Traded Opts 24
Co News 22.25 Tompkins 26
Consolidated 22 Unit Trusts 26
Big Bang 22 Commodities 26
Stock Market 22 USM Prices 26
Money Markets 22 Share Prices 27
Foreign Exchange 24

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	1619.66 (+11.25)
Dow Jones	1619.66 (+11.25)
Nikkei Dow	16308.27 (+488.72)
Hong Kong	2254.79 (+16.50)
Hang Seng	2254.79 (+16.50)
Amsterdam	289.8 (-1.1)
Sydney	1367.5 (-4.9)
Frankfurt	1367.5 (-4.9)
Commerzbank	1368.4 (-12.6)
General	3816.60 (-2.04)
Paris CAC	370.8 (same)
SKA General	639.50 (same)
London closing prices	Page 27

INTEREST RATES

London	Bank Base 11%
3-month interbank	11 1/2%
3-month Treasury bills	10 1/2%
30-year bonds	9 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£ \$1.4235	£ \$1.4235
DM 2.8370	DM 2.8370
Sfr 2.0000	Sfr 2.0000
FF 6.5596	FF 6.5596
Yen 160.36	Yen 160.36
ECU 1.3660	ECU 1.3660

Exchange claims
success with
systems rehearsal

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Saturday's dress rehearsal
for the screen-based equity
market was a success, the
Stock Exchange insisted yes-
terday in its official report.
In spite of complaints from mar-
ket-makers that there were
serious shortcomings with the
system.

Some fine-tuning was still
necessary but the Stock Ex-
change Automated Quota-
tions System (SEAQ) operated
successfully throughout the
trial, the report said. The
Exchange maintained that
price up-dating never took
more than two seconds
throughout the day. The re-
port added that the trial had
proposed various ways for
member companies to al-
leviate problems arising from
their in-house systems.

The report conceded that
there had been problems re-
lated to the logging on and
updating of prices at the start
of the day, and trading re-
ports and reporting trades by
telephone. However, clarifica-
tion of these rules had now
been published.

But in spite of the
Exchange's claim that price
up-dating delays had occurred
only when operators had mis-



Surrounded by screens: Mr Geoffrey Patten, centre, on a visit to the Stock Exchange yesterday with Mr George Hayter, left, director of information services, and Mr Patrick Mitford-Slade, chairman of the projects committee at the Exchange.

Refusal of
immunity
threatens
City Bill

By Lawrence Lever

The controversial Financial
Services Bill is set for more
fireworks at Monday's Third
Reading in the House of
Lords, after the Government's
refusal yesterday to grant legal
immunity to professional
bodies.

The Government agreed at
the end of Monday's report
stage in the Lords to re-
consider the question of legal
immunity for bodies such as
the Law Society and the
Institute of Chartered
Accountants.

The professional bodies
want the Bill to be amended to
prevent them from being sued
by their own members. An
amendment to this effect had
already been tabled by Lord
Benson, the cross-bench peer.
It is supported by the
Opposition.

The Government, however,
yesterday told the professional
bodies that it would not
accede to the amendment.
The alternative proposed by
the Government - which
would allow the professional
bodies themselves to pass a
resolution preventing mem-
bers suing - has been rejected
by both the Law Society and
the ICA.

The Government, however,
needs the co-operation of the
Opposition in the Lords.

A fresh amendment to the
Bill was tabled by the Govern-
ment yesterday, in response to
Opposition pressure, which
makes it obligatory for the
self-regulating organizations
to make provision for in-
vestigating public complaints.

'Oil prices could
fluctuate wildly'

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al-Sa-
hah, the Kuwait oil minister
who was responsible for the
demand which led to the
longest meeting in Opec's
history, gave a warning yes-
terday that oil prices could
still fluctuate wildly until a
new type of "scientific" agree-
ment is reached by the oil
producers' cartel.

Sheikh Ali, who arrived in
London yesterday morning di-
rectly from Opec's marathon
session in Geneva, said, how-
ever, that there was no reason
why oil prices should go up.

He said the next Opec
meeting scheduled for Decem-
ber 11 would probably be the
most crucial in its history.

"This meeting will be im-
portant because we are taking
decisions about the future -
something which will reduce
friction among our members,"
he said.

Opec officials and Mr
Ruwani Lakman, the Nigerian
oil minister and Opec presi-
dent who will be in London
today, are looking at a new
percentage quota system
which they hope can be in-
troduced to replace the output
levels agreed in Geneva.

Sheikh Ali yesterday de-
fended his stand in Geneva
during which he demanded
and won an increased share of
output for his country.

He said that just because
Kuwait was a wealthy country
it should not be denied a fair
share of output.

"That is like saying the wise
should be punished. Kuwait
has looked to the future and
invested wisely where revenues
were high and cut investment
and spending when revenues
became low," he said.

He also said that Britain's
continued refusal to co-operate
with Opec in production cuts
to reverse the supply-demand
imbalance was no longer
relevant.

"The present Government
has refused to co-operate for
the past few years and we don't
think they will do anything
now," he said.

"In any case, Britain will
not be a major exporter of oil
in the future - in fact it is very
unlikely to remain self-
sufficient for much longer."

Norway, on the other hand,
will play an increasingly im-
portant role because of the size
of its oil reserves and its
potential to increase exports.

He said: "I don't think that
what Norway has done to cut
output is yet significant. What
I want to see is a commitment
to more substantial measures
by the end of the year."

Mr Arne Oeien, the Norwe-
gian oil minister, who will also
be at the oil industry con-
ference in London, yesterday
met Mr Arturo Grisanti, the
Venezuelan oil minister and
the previous Opec president.

Mr Grisanti said afterwards:
"It is indispensable to have the
co-operation of non-Opec
producers because Opec alone
does not have the influence at
the moment to stabilize the
market."

Third quarter profits at
Sohio, BP's subsidiary in the
United States, fell to \$52
million (\$36 million) after tax,
interest charges and re-
structuring costs, compared
with \$346 million during the
same period last year.

In the first nine months of
this year Sohio made a net loss
of \$376 million compared with
a profit of \$1,079 million for
the same period last year.

BA profits
'to take off
next year'

By Teresa Poole
Business Correspondent

The Government's hopes of
raising up to £1 billion from
the privatization of British
Airways received a boost yes-
terday with a forecast from
Wood Mackenzie, joint brokers
to the Government for the
sale, of a strong profits
recovery in 1987-88 to £230
million.

But, according to Wood
Mackenzie, investors will ex-
pect British Airways to offer a
higher-than-average yield and
on a less demanding earnings
ratio than most stocks.

A research report by Wood
Mackenzie forecasts a fall in
pretax profits for the year to
March 1987 from £183 mil-
lion to £130 million because of
the sharp decline in North
Atlantic traffic in the wake of
Chernobyl, terrorist attacks in
Europe, and a weak dollar.

However, profits are ex-
pected to bounce back very
strongly next year to £230
million as traffic volumes
continue to recover and grow.
Phillips & Drew, joint brokers
to British Airways, recently
forecast £200 million.

Wood Mackenzie says that
if British Airways were al-
ready quoted, its market
capitalization "could ap-
proach £1 billion", suggesting
a yield of 6 per cent or more,
well above the market av-
erage, and a prospective p/e
multiple of no more than 8
and 6.5 respectively for this
year and next.

The report describes British
Airways as "a management
success story" but also gives
warning that the potential
risks of the business cannot
be ignored.

Phit agrees
Chase
Corp bid

By Judith Hentley
Commercial Property
Correspondent

The Chase Corporation, part
of the Chase Group, New
Zealand's third largest com-
pany, is making an agreed
£188.6 million bid for Prop-
erty Holding and Investment
Trust.

Chase emerges as the white
knight to rescue Phit from
another New Zealand com-
pany, Apex Group, whose
160p share tender offer for
29 per cent of the company,
closes on Monday.

Chase Corporation, through
its 63.1 per cent-owned British
property company, Wingate
Property Investments, is mak-
ing a two-for-one agreed 205p-
a-share offer for Phit with a
cash alternative of 165p a
share, totalling £153 million.
Present Wingate shareholders
will have the chance to acquire
the new Wingate shares issued
to satisfy the underwritten
cash alternative at 330p a
share.

Phit's last stated net assets
per share were 158p but the
company, in its recent success-
ful defence against Greycoat
Group's £109 million bid,
estimated them to be 168p a
share. Samuel Montagu & Co,
the merchant bank advising
Wingate, says that the net
asset value of the combined
group would be 239p a share
based on Phit's last balance
sheet.

Chase Corporation, a
wholly-owned subsidiary of
the Chase Group, has been
casting its eye over other
British property companies,
attracted by the prospect of
picking up asset-rich devel-
opers which would give it the
chance to expand its opera-
tions from the limited New
Zealand and Australian
markets.

It will apply for newly-
issued Wingate shares to ac-
quire Phit, enabling it to keep
50 per cent control.

Mr Arthur John, chairman
of Phit, would be chairman of
the enlarged group which will
seek a full stock market listing.

Chase continues to play to
packed audiences. "As far as
we can tell there seems to be
no diminution in the popu-
larity of Cats," Mr Broily said.
The show has advance box
office receipts of \$4 million
(\$2.8 million) from the Broad-
way production and is proving
popular in countries such as
Japan and Germany. There
are plans to present the pro-
duction in other countries,
such as France, under licen-
sing arrangements.

Mr Broily said the company
would benefit from the full
takeover in January of the
Palace Theatre - it held a 50
per cent stake before. The Les
Misérables musical at the
Palace is "one of the most
sought-after shows" Mr Broily
said, adding that it had
contributed "substantially" to
profits.

"The prospects for the com-
pany overall are extremely
bright and favourable," Mr
Broily noted.

The company's pretax profits
were made on turnover of
£15.6 million as opposed to
£11.6 million last year. From
this it paid royalties of £9.4
million.

Mr Broily said it was not
possible to determine how
much of the royalties Mr
Lloyd Webber had been paid,
though he added it was not-
ing like £9.4 million.

Really Useful is paying a
final dividend of 7.5p a share,
which brings the total divi-
dend to 11.25p.

Almost half of its net in-
come was earned from the US,
with the balance split between
Britain and the rest of the
world. The company lost
£149,000 on its video produc-
tion activities.

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£149,000 on its video produc-
tion activities.

Family Money
on life after
British Gas

In tomorrow's 12-page
Family Money, The Times
looks beyond the British Gas
flame and asks if you should
take a flyer on British
Airways.

In a week of rising mortgage
interest rates, we tackle the
problem of how to keep those
repayments within your bud-
get. We also advise what to
look out for at next week's
Money '86 show and how
private investors will be af-
fected by Big Bang.

Plus, with all sporting eyes
focused on Nigel Mansell's
prospects in the Australian
Grand Prix, we ask just how
difficult it is to get life
insurance if you are a racing
driver, hang-glider or pot-
holer?

Oilfield viable

BP has declared its Gyda
field in the North Sea's
Norwegian sector com-
mercially viable, but agreement
has still to be obtained from
the Norwegian Government
for access to its pipeline
system.

In a bid to avoid an out and
out commercial war, the Jap-
nese leaders of IDC are to
investigate "ways of har-
monizing" the interests of the
company with those of the
civil consortium and Kokusai
Denshin Denwa, the Japanese
telephone monopoly.

IDC will be formally incor-
porated on November 17 and,
if successful in winning the
licence, aims to offer leased
circuit services by the end of
1987 and switched services by
the beginning of 1989.

More to join C&W project

By Teresa Poole

Cable and Wireless and its
partners in the consortium
bidding for the licence to
become the alternative inter-
national telecommunications
carrier in Japan, will today
announce 23 new shareholders
in the project.

The formation of the Anglo-
United States-Japanese con-
sortium was announced earlier
this month but a 20 per cent
stake was set aside for addi-
tional participation by Jap-
anese companies and banks.

This stake has been al-
located to the new shareholders,
including the Nissan Motor
Co, Nomura Securities, Nip-
pon Steel Corporation, the

Tokyo Electric Power Com-
pany and Toshiba Cor-
poration.

The C&W consortium, In-
ternational Digital Commu-
nications Planning, whose
core members include Toyota
Motors, C Itoh, the trading
house, Merrill Lynch and
Pacific Telesis, is competing
for the licence against a group
led by three of the largest
Japanese trading houses -
Mitsubishi, Daiwa and
Sanwa.

These houses have not
taken up an invitation to take a
direct stake in IDC but their
banking subsidiaries are
among the 23 new sharehold-

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- "No 1 in Capital Growth: International Sector up 97%
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*Source: Association of Investment Trusts Net Asset Value Total Return year to 31st August 1986.

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May Day an imperfect guide to Big Bang

London market will not be an American clone

By John Hollis

There is a tendency when considering potential developments in the British securities market to view these as emulating past developments in the United States, and tending to produce a market which will be a clone of the American system.

This may be misleading. The Wall Street Journal, illustrating for its American readers the scale of changes in London, described the Big Bang as the deregulation of commissions, the creation of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the abolition of the Glass-Steagall Act, all condensed into a few months.

By contrast, the US equivalent of Big Bang — May Day 1975 — was an event in isolation. Much of the restructuring of the New York Stock Exchange community followed that event, notably the evolution of financial conglomerates involving non-securities firms. Because of the Glass-Steagall Act, the commercial banks have been largely excluded from participation.

London, in contrast, is the only big world centre where the law allows commercial banks and securities houses to work in harness. In London, too, much of the restructuring has taken place in advance of the deregulation of commissions.

There are important historical and geographical differences between the British and US securities markets. The US is a very big country, covering several time zones. Partly in consequence, there is no national daily Press in spite of the best efforts by *The Wall Street Journal*.

This factor alone goes a long way towards explaining the manner in which new issues, both of government paper and company securities, are marketed through syndicates of

professionals. It also largely explains why the secondary market in US government paper is quite removed from the New York Stock Exchange.

A dominant historical factor is the Glass-Steagall Act, passed shortly after the 1929 Wall Street débacle, which separated the functions of commercial and investment banking. This, coupled with the involvement of investment banks in new issues, blurred the distinction between investment banking and stockbroking while firmly



excluding commercial banks from the field.

Even today, banks such as Citicorp and Manufacturers Hanover, though active as issuers and promoters of international bonds, are excluded from this activity at home.

A similar factor is the broad restriction limiting US commercial banks' activities to their home states while stockbrokers and investment banks range nationwide. Curiously, in Canada, where there is a similar separation of function, the system has evolved quite differently. There the leading banks are national institutions while stockbrokers are provincially chartered (though in practice many operate nationally).

In the US there are now moves to do away with the state banking restriction but so far these tend to take the form of neighbouring states allowing regional groupings while continuing to exclude the big New York and Califor-

nian money-centre banks from having a presence at retail level.

A more important, but less obvious, difference is in the basic dealing method. The London plan is to adopt the method used in the US over-the-counter market by adapting the NASDAQ computerized quotation display system to London requirements.

The NASDAQ system is not unlike that used in the international bond markets. From its nature, originating as a market in minor securities which were often of only local significance, the over-the-counter market has never had a geographical centre. It is only the availability of computerized communications that has enabled it to become fully national as the similarly organized bond markets are international.

Nevertheless, this dealing system, based on market-makers acting primarily as principals dealing for their own account, is different from the system theoretically in force in the New York Stock Exchange.

This is based on open

**TOMORROW:
What Big Bang
will mean to the
private investor**

auction between buyers and sellers congregating at the appropriate trading post. The auction is supplemented by the activities of the specialists assigned to each post. Specialists are primarily brokers' brokers: they hold orders on behalf of other brokers, executing them as the developing continuous auction permits and obtaining their remuneration by a share of the broker's commission. They may act only as principals for their own account when it is necessary so to do to keep the

auction live. The manner and extent to which they may so act is severely circumscribed.

Increasingly, this system has become incapable of handling large individual orders which has led to the growing practice of brokers taking block positions "upstairs" for their own account to accommodate clients and then laying them off with other clients. This amounts to a partial market-making system but, unlike that in NASDAQ, it is sporadic and confined to special circumstances.

The SEAQ quotation dis-



play system adopted in London will only accept and transmit quotes from registered market-makers in the stocks in which they are so registered. Only brokers and institutions will have access to the full range of current quotes. Other clients will be restricted to displays giving only the best current quote without identifying its source and will have to contact a broker to reach the market-maker.

It will be open to brokers who are not also market-makers to take positions, at the risk of becoming liable to stamp duty, to accommodate clients, though the "best execution" principle will make it difficult to justify doing so except within the current quotation. They will have nothing like the freedom of action of the "block traders" in New York.

Another factor is the London fortnightly account dealing system, which is not

scheduled — to be eliminated or modified. This gives a market-maker or a "block-positioner" more leeway than the US system of settling each day's business on the fifth succeeding day.

While "block-positioners" who are not market-makers will have to bear full transfer duty when they are buyers, as described above, it appears that if they "short" a stock to accommodate a client wishing to buy, they will not be able to borrow stock from money brokers as market-makers will be allowed to do.

The new market-making firms will each have to make a basic policy decision about whether their dealings and quotations are to be client-driven or driven by their own book (like a traditional jobber). The block-trading function as practised in New York is essentially governed by the need to accommodate the clients.

This is a different concept from running a book in order to make regular dealing profits, while providing a service to the market and the investing public at large. The two styles also reflect differently on the role of the firm's own research effort and while both create potential conflicts of interest vis-à-vis this function, these differ somewhat between the two cases.

It is an old Stock Exchange saying that you should never take an investment recommendation from a jobber in a stock in which he deals. A block positioner, in contrast, may find himself being asked to take positions in consequence of his own research recommendations in order to give these recommendations credibility.

The author, a director of Dewe Rogerson, is expressing his own views.

As from Monday next, market-makers will pay no transfer stamp duty: the 50p nominal stamp is abolished. Debet Securities should be added to the list of market-makers published on Tuesday. The range of compensation for investors under discussion is £250,000 to £300,000 (net £200,000 in yesterday's headline). Compensation envisaged by the Securities and Investments Board would be paid only in the event of insolvency. The SIB expects investors will be paid before the insolvency process is completed.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Treasury and the Bank take on the markets

Whatever Karl Otto Poehl was telling the Prime Minister on Monday, it was not that the British Government should abandon monetary targets. But the Governor of the Bank of England, who was present at the meeting, had his own reasons for wanting to be freed of the burden of an implausible target for broad money.

Monetary targets, as Herr Poehl underlined yesterday, can be very useful things. Following the Bundesbank's fortnightly press conference, he was telling the world that Germany will overshoot its main money target this year, for the first time for eight years. But whereas the Bank of England will be getting together with the Treasury in the next few weeks to devise the best method of expunging sterling M3 from the collective monetary memory, the Bundesbank will probably respond to this year's overshoot with a tightening of monetary policy next year.

Monetary targets have been useful to the Germans, and no more so than this year. Without the supporting evidence of a significant money supply overshoot, the Bundesbank might have found it harder to resist pressure from Washington to trim the German discount rate. As it is, the discount rate looks stuck at 3.5 per cent.

Britain's monetary targets have often acted as Aunt Sallics for the markets. They have suffered from credibility problems from the beginning.

Yesterday in the markets, there were no tears shed for the Governor's farewell to sterling M3. A year ago, everyone thought that the Chancellor had consigned the errant broad aggregate to the monetary saltmines. That said, the jettisoning of any formal constraint, even one that has been palpably ignored when it has suited the Treasury to do so, tends to confirm the market's suspicions that winning the forthcoming election now takes precedence over everything else.

Gilt and the pound were looking troubled yesterday, when both the US dollar and the US bond market suddenly took on a healthier glow. The dollar and bonds benefited from the sell-off in Tokyo, which appears to have been inspired by fears that the Japanese government is about to introduce a capital gains tax directed at share profits. Japanese buying power is expected to shift to New York where the initial benefits could be seen in the bond market and at next month's auctions of Federal debt.

Nearer home the trade deficit of £877 million last month, and the current account deficit of £277 million, were worse than market expectations. Compared with the August catastrophe, when trade was in the red by £1.49 billion, things improved, but

clearly by not enough. The balance of payments will remain a worry until the Treasury's looked-for export boom becomes a little plainer.

The sterling index slipped from 67.6 to 67.5 and gilts lost half a point or more. Money market interest rates edged up by an eighth, reversing the trend of the past few days, although not yet by enough to spark off any new base rate worries.

Steinberg's threat

Few people viewed Mercury, one of the chief British hopes in the new revolutionized City, with much sympathy when Saul Steinberg, the ruthless US arbitrageur, first bought his holding in the company 11 months ago.

If there were any doubt then over Mr Steinberg's motives, there can be little doubt now. In recent months most merchant bank shares have caught a cold, and the larger ones tend to have caught something correspondingly heavier. Nevertheless, the clever Mr Steinberg had still managed to make a profit on his Mercury investment of about £1 a share — the calculations are complicated by the three-way merger that formed Mercury International — before he made his latest announcement. Mercury's nerves are stretched to breaking point before Big Bang. What better time for Mr Steinberg to frighten the life out of them by ripping up his "gentlemen's agreement" not to increase his stake.

It is hardly conceivable that he is seriously interested in taking over the financial services conglomerate that embodies the Big Bang philosophy. It would be far simpler to cause a leap in the market price and then scare the company into mustering its friends to buy him out at an even better price. So far, stage one has been a runaway success. Overnight, Mercury shares leapt by 40p to 375p, though they fell back during the day to around 360p.

The threat to buy more than 15 per cent of the company should still be taken seriously but it raises interesting questions for the Bank of England and the City. The Banking Act requires anyone taking a 15 per cent stake in a bank to inform the Bank of England.

If, however, the Bank decides Mr Steinberg is a wholly inappropriate person for Mercury to have as its largest shareholder, there is little it can do. The only concrete sanction it has — should Mr Steinberg decide to ignore the Governor's eyebrows — is to withdraw Mercury's banking licence.

So should there be special rules to stop this sort of ungentlemanly behaviour towards British financial institutions? The answer must surely be no, as long as there are no similar protections available for other kinds of British company.

One year on and tin's war of attrition still rages

By Lawrence Lever

The tin crisis celebrates its first anniversary today — if celebrates is the right word. The crisis erupted on October 24 last year when, as metal brokers have ironically pointed out, was United Nations day. The irony, they say, comes from the refusal of the 22-member countries of the International Tin Council to accept liability for the debts of the ITC.

It was on October 24 that the ITC announced that it had run out of money and could no longer support the price of tin through its buffer stock manager, Mr Peter de Koning.

Tin prices collapsed from £8,300 a tonne and the ITC was left with gross debts of about £900 million. Tin is now quoted in Kuala Lumpur at a sterling equivalent price of £3,960 a tonne.

Attempts to reach a settlement by the member countries foundered. The Government — which under the terms of the sixth International Tin Agreement is liable for only 4 per cent of the debts — lobbied hard for the market settlement.

A confidential memorandum prepared from within the Department of Trade and Industry shortly after the crisis broke argued that any legal action brought against the 22 member countries for the ITC's debts had a very good chance of success.

Since the breakdown of the market settlement however the Government has changed its tune completely. Unofficial Government sources say that the legal opinion prepared by the DTI was a tactical manoeuvre, painting the worst possible picture in order to frighten the member countries into accepting a settlement.

It did not work and now the Government, along with the others, has retreated into a shell of silence and the bald statement that it is not legally liable for the ITC's debts.



Cornish tin miners and MPs campaigning for government aid to help save the industry earlier this year

The most vehement legal challenge to the governments comes from a group of 11 tin brokers who have called themselves Tinco Realisations. They appointed Mr Michael Arnold, the former receiver of the funds of the National Union of Mineworkers, to spearhead their legal and political campaign for the governments to pay their losses which could amount to £400 million.

What Tinco is saying is that the 22 member countries of the ITC are jointly and severally liable for its debts. This is a crucial legal argument which effectively prevents any one of the member governments agreeing to settle for its alleged share of the ITC's debts.

Joint and several liability, if correct, would mean that Tinco could sue one of the 22 member countries and make it liable for the debts of all 22. It would then be up to the one unfortunate member country to recover the amount it had to pay out — minus its own share — from the other 21 countries.

Two of the metal brokers have already issued writs against all 22 member countries. Tinco itself has not done so yet.

Mr Arnold had a meeting with Mr Paul Channon, the

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, at which Mr Channon made it plain that the Government would not agree any settlement of Tinco's claim.

In fact Britain is considering a pre-emptive strike at the two actions brought against it and the other countries. It is saying, unofficially, that they disclose no cause of action against it.

On the general question of legal liability the Government says that the issue revolves around the construction of the ITA 6. The Government says that this document is a definitive statement of the liabilities of the 22 member countries. These liabilities, it says, are restricted to the funding of the administrative costs and a proportion of the ITC's buffer stock. They do not extend to the ITC's debts.

Tinco disagrees, and in time-honoured fashion has produced a detailed legal opinion from renowned international lawyers, saying the

Tinco's chosen legal route to "collect", as Mr Arnold puts it, is to petition the High Court to wind up the ITC.

This legal action has however been delayed to the end of the year at the earliest. "The

reasons are entirely tactical," Mr Arnold said last week. "There is no weakness on our part, this tactic is in fact a strengthening."

Tinco says that winding up the ITC is the most "clear cut and simple route" to collect. It would mean that a liquidator of the ITC would be appointed who would then bring an action against the member countries to call in the council's debts.

The next stage would be a court order saying whether, and from whom, the liquidator could collect the debts. Then would come enforcement. If the order said the liability was joint and several then, in so far as some countries did not pay, the liquidator could either make an extra call on those which did pay, or seize the assets within the jurisdiction of the non-payers.

If the liability is several the liquidator would have to go around the world collecting the proportionate shares. An alternative, or even additional, line of attack which Tinco is examining is to take direct action in one or more of the countries against member governments.

Member governments also have to contend with the less high profile claims of 10 international banks seeking about £180 million as creditors of the ITC.

The banks' spokesman is Sir Adam Ridley of Hambros. They are likely to support the Tinco petition and are also contemplating direct action.

The line being taken by the Government on the petition is that the ITC is not a body capable of being wound up. And even if it is, then the governments will argue that the High Court is not the correct forum for such a petition to be heard.

The legal issues will be argued for some time. Lawyers and litigation on this level are notoriously expensive. The entire tin crisis is rapidly disintegrating into a massive and horrendously expensive legal nightmare.

Sydney launches Liffe bond link

From Richard Lander, Sydney

A new piece in the global financial futures jigsaw fell into place yesterday when the Sydney Futures Exchange (SFE) started trading US Treasury Bond Futures line with the London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe).

The contract, fully fungible with the identical instrument traded in London, got off to a healthy start with more than 600 lots changing hands within half an hour of the 8am start. Business was opened by Mr Brian Williamson, the chairman of Liffe, who rang a bell which was presented to the SFE as a memento.

Exchange officials said they were delighted with the total day's volume of 2,100 lots, having expected to trade some 1,500 contracts, each worth US\$100,000 (£71,000) par value.

The new contract marks the first international instrument traded by the SFE and the first link for both markets. Next week the two exchanges join forces again when the SFE launches a three-month Euro-dollar contract. The Sydney market completes a trio of launches on November 20 with a gold contract that will be fully fungible with the New York Comex.

Mr Les Hoskins, chief executive of SFE, said he expected the T-Bond contract to be the most successful of the three new ventures. "Given the size of the cash market in T-Bonds in Tokyo, we hope to achieve 5,000 contracts a day in the near future, a level we regard as an international barometer of success," he said.

Liffe trades an average of 8,000 T-Bond contracts on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT). It is the most actively-traded interest rate contract in the world.

The link between the SFE and Liffe, which enables contracts to be bought on one

exchange and sold on the other, effectively produces a single 17-hour market in T-Bonds with all clearing done by the International Commodities Clearing House.

With the inclusion of the Chicago markets, T-Bonds can be traded for almost 22 hours a day. A three-way fungible link with the CBOT is under investigation.

The Sydney interest rate contracts will provide direct competition in the Asian time zone for the Singapore International Monetary Exchange (Simex). Simex started T-Bond trading earlier this month.

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Locker shares jump on hopes of Simon Engineering bid

By Michael Clark and Carol Leonard

Shares of little Thomas Locker, the filtration engineer, were flying last night with dealers talking of a possible bid soon from its bigger rival Simon Engineering.

Locker's all-important ordinary shares, which carry the votes, leapt 8p to 36p—just 4p short of their year's high—while the non-voting "A" shares jumped 6p, to equal their peak of 33p. At this level, the entire group carries a price-tag of £13.5 million and has often been mentioned as a likely suitor for Simon. By contrast Simon, whose interests stretch from making specialist machinery to process plant contracting, storage and oil services, is capitalised at £156 million.

But, despite its size, Simon is still regarded as vulnerable and has had its name linked in the past with Hawker Siddeley. Simon's share price jumped 20p on Wednesday with market men claiming that a bid was close. Last night, the price fell 10p to 253p as word went round it was now ready to bid for Locker. Most observers would regard any acquisition by Simon, at this stage, as a purely defensive move.

Volume was pushing a record low in the rest of the equity market with traders still pre-occupied with their Big Bang systems.

institutional investors refusing to deal until next week and another disappointing set of trade figures dampening the scenario still further.

The market looks unlikely to be as busy today, with some traders closing down their dealing facilities early because of the lack of new-time buying.

As one fund manager said to a broker: "You don't spend money in the shops if the sales are starting next week."

The FT 30 share index opened down 2.9 and slithered steadily lower, to close at 1,249.9, down 12.5. The FTSE 100 share index closed at 1,572.5, down 17.1.

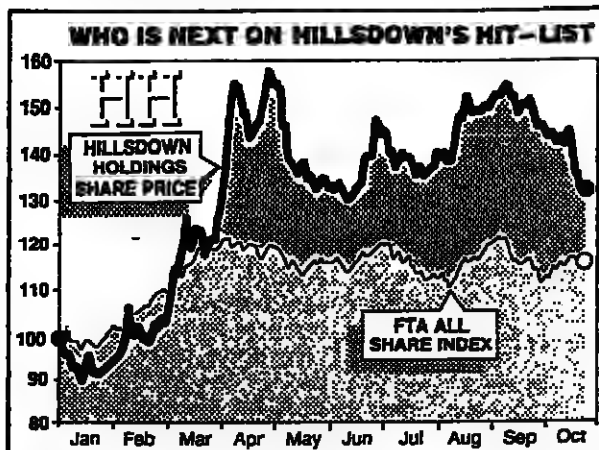
Gifts lost early rises, to close up to £1 lower.

Among the leaders, ICI lost

It looks as though the race is on for control of Crown Television Productions, the commercial and corporate video producer. The word is that Crown had a visit earlier this week from Mr Peter Gunner, chairman of Shawndwick, the USM-quoted public relations consultancy.

15p to 1,077p, Glaxo 10p to 930p, Beecham 10p to 415p and Tate & Lyle 9p to 551p.

Hillsdown Holdings, the acquisitive Fresh-Laid eggs-to-furniture group which



cleared its debts by raising £150 million last week, eased a couple of pence to 198p as speculators tried to guess what its next target would be.

Joint chairman, Mr Harry Solomon and finance director, Mr John Jackson, spent the day at Wood Mackenzie's Wood Street offices on Wednesday where they held a series of institutional meetings with more than a dozen different fund managers.

Hillsdown is expected to get an ADR facility before the end of the month, but the two directors steered fund managers away from thoughts that their next acquisition might be in the US.

"They said they were extremely wary about expanding in the US and that there were plenty of opportunities in

Britain," said Mr Robert Brand, the leading food sector analyst at Wood Mackenzie.

"We have got acquisitions in the pipeline, both food and non-food," admits Mr Sol-

Stone International, the world's largest maker of railway air-conditioning, will announce a lucrative contract later today for motorway indicators on the M25. The contract, from the Department of Transport, is believed to be worth £855,000. Stone's shares eased 4p to 148p yesterday.

omon, "but there is nothing imminent. We may buy something in the US, but we're not going to make a mega-bid there. We'll probably do something over here first."

Companies tipped as possible targets for Hillsdown's attentions include Bassett and Dalgety, both unchanged at 195p and 288p, respectively. Unigate, up 5p to 303p and Harrison & Crossfield, the overseas trader, which slipped 6p to 420p after a 21p rise the previous day.

Bernard Matthews, the turkey group, which Hillsdown is also thought to have cast a covetous eye over, slipped 27p to 268p following a company visit by James Capel, the broker and news of a marketing agreement with H J Heinz of Canada.

"If I had to put my money on one company I would go for Dalgety," says Mr Brand. "It might not be their next acquisition, but I think it might be their next major one."

Elsewhere in the food sector Bejam firmed another 2p to 167p on speculation that Iceland Frozen Foods may be about to bid. The shares continue to gain ground despite word from Mr John Aphorpe, the Bejam chairman, that the company has not had talks with Iceland "for many months."

Oils were knocked by profit-taking and doubts about the Opec agreement. BP fell fur-

ther, losing 15p to 658p. Shell dipped 8p to 915p. Lasso 6p to 915p. Britoil 5p to 135p and I C Gas 3p to 570p.

Stores had another bad day in response to the increase in mortgage rates. Manton Bros fell 10p to 490p. Burton 8p to 266p. W H Smith "A" shares 6p to 254p. Woolworth 5p to 630p and Storehouse 5p to 300p.

Hawker Siddeley was worst hit among mechanical engineers, falling a further 8p to make a two-day decline of 40p, after disappointing results. The stock is now down to a new all-time low of 407p.

Granada fell 4p to 268p after an article in this column yesterday highlighting that the Rank Organisation may have disposed of the 3 per cent stake it acquired during its abortive £750 million bid earlier this year. Granada now confirms that Rank no longer holds any shares in the group and claims the 12.5 million shares were taken up by Rowe 65 Pitman, the broker, which has been gradually placing them with clients.

Last week, Granada's shares were trading at about the 282p level following its acquisition of Laskys, the loss-making audio and video chain, from Ladbroke for £30 million.

It was financed by a bought deal arranged by Salomon Bros, the New York investment banker, which placed the 10.6 million new Granada shares with clients.

Mecca, the night club to bingo hall group, which made its debut on the stock market yesterday, opened at 146p, an 11p premium to its 135p offer price, before settling back at 144p, a 9p premium.

Talk of a possible bid for Mecca from Rank continues. "It would make sense," said one top leisure analyst. "Mecca is fundamentally cheap." Rank eased 7p to 504p.

Consolidated Gold Fields, the mining finance group which has been the centre of recent takeover speculation, came in for profit-taking. But dealers said that this was expected after the shares' recent strong run and so near the end of the account. The shares, hit 655p before encountering renewed support at the lower levels and increased turnover on the traded options market. The price finished above its worst levels of the day, only 5p lower at 659p.

Dealers are still convinced that something is being hatched behind the scenes and they are not ruling out the possibility of Mr Harry Oppenheimer's Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa making a full bid.

RECENT ISSUES

Equities	1986	1985
Anglo Sacs (115p)	180	155
Applied (125p)	180	155
Baker Hams (170p)	180	155
Barracuda (145p)	180	155
Berry, Berch & Noble (115p)	180	155
Crygrove (100p)	180	155
Creighton Labs (130p)	180	155
Euro Home (150p)	180	155
Grain Southern (135p)	180	155
Guthrie Corp (150p)	180	155
Harrison (150p)	180	155
Hughes Food (20p)	180	155
Imperial Express (185p)	180	155
Local Lon (5p)	180	155
Morbrough Tech (110p)	180	155
Morco Leisure (135p)	180	155
Miler & Santhous (105p)	180	155
Newage Trans (75p)	180	155
Radcliffe Corp (90p)	180	155
Rotunda (85p)	180	155
Ryman (110p)	180	155
Sandals Parkings (135p)	180	155
Scott Midge (100p)	180	155
TSC Group (100p)	180	155
Thames TV (190p)	180	155
Treas Shv (2016 = 97)	180	155
Unicost (85p)	180	155
Winey Mackay (160p)	180	155
Yorkshire TV (125p)	180	155

RIGHTS ISSUES

Equities	1986	1985
Bellway N/P	15	3
Lawrence (Walter) N/P	15	3
Lawrence (Walter) N/P	15	3
Lawrence (Walter) N/P	15	3
Lawrence (Walter) N/P	15	3
Lawrence (Walter) N/P	15	3
Lawrence (Walter) N/P	15	3
Lawrence (Walter) N/P	15	3
Lawrence (Walter) N/P	15	3
Lawrence (Walter) N/P	15	3

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Dealings	For Options
Oct 27	Oct 27	Oct 27	Oct 27
Nov 3	Nov 3	Nov 3	Nov 3
Nov 10	Nov 10	Nov 10	Nov 10
Nov 17	Nov 17	Nov 17	Nov 17
Nov 24	Nov 24	Nov 24	Nov 24
Dec 1	Dec 1	Dec 1	Dec 1
Dec 8	Dec 8	Dec 8	Dec 8
Dec 15	Dec 15	Dec 15	Dec 15
Dec 22	Dec 22	Dec 22	Dec 22
Dec 29	Dec 29	Dec 29	Dec 29
Jan 5	Jan 5	Jan 5	Jan 5
Jan 12	Jan 12	Jan 12	Jan 12
Jan 19	Jan 19	Jan 19	Jan 19
Jan 26	Jan 26	Jan 26	Jan 26
Feb 2	Feb 2	Feb 2	Feb 2
Feb 9	Feb 9	Feb 9	Feb 9
Feb 16	Feb 16	Feb 16	Feb 16
Feb 23	Feb 23	Feb 23	Feb 23
Mar 1	Mar 1	Mar 1	Mar 1
Mar 8	Mar 8	Mar 8	Mar 8
Mar 15	Mar 15	Mar 15	Mar 15
Mar 22	Mar 22	Mar 22	Mar 22
Mar 29	Mar 29	Mar 29	Mar 29
Apr 5	Apr 5	Apr 5	Apr 5
Apr 12	Apr 12	Apr 12	Apr 12
Apr 19	Apr 19	Apr 19	Apr 19
Apr 26	Apr 26	Apr 26	Apr 26
May 3	May 3	May 3	May 3
May 10	May 10	May 10	May 10
May 17	May 17	May 17	May 17
May 24	May 24	May 24	May 24
May 31	May 31	May 31	May 31
Jun 7	Jun 7	Jun 7	Jun 7
Jun 14	Jun 14	Jun 14	Jun 14
Jun 21	Jun 21	Jun 21	Jun 21
Jun 28	Jun 28	Jun 28	Jun 28
Jul 5	Jul 5	Jul 5	Jul 5
Jul 12	Jul 12	Jul 12	Jul 12
Jul 19	Jul 19	Jul 19	Jul 19
Jul 26	Jul 26	Jul 26	Jul 26
Aug 2	Aug 2	Aug 2	Aug 2
Aug 9	Aug 9	Aug 9	Aug 9
Aug 16	Aug 16	Aug 16	Aug 16
Aug 23	Aug 23	Aug 23	Aug 23
Aug 30	Aug 30	Aug 30	Aug 30
Sep 6	Sep 6	Sep 6	Sep 6
Sep 13	Sep 13	Sep 13	Sep 13
Sep 20	Sep 20	Sep 20	Sep 20
Sep 27	Sep 27	Sep 27	Sep 27
Oct 4	Oct 4	Oct 4	Oct 4
Oct 11	Oct 11	Oct 11	Oct 11
Oct 18	Oct 18	Oct 18	Oct 18
Oct 25	Oct 25	Oct 25	Oct 25
Nov 1	Nov 1	Nov 1	Nov 1
Nov 8	Nov 8	Nov 8	Nov 8
Nov 15	Nov 15	Nov 15	Nov 15
Nov 22	Nov 22	Nov 22	Nov 22
Nov 29	Nov 29	Nov 29	Nov 29
Dec 6	Dec 6	Dec 6	Dec 6
Dec 13	Dec 13	Dec 13	Dec 13
Dec 20	Dec 20	Dec 20	Dec 20
Dec 27	Dec 27	Dec 27	Dec 27
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Mar 27	Mar 27	Mar 27	Mar 27
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Apr 10	Apr 10	Apr 10	Apr 10
Apr 17	Apr 17	Apr 17	Apr 17
Apr 24	Apr 24	Apr 24	Apr 24
Apr 30	Apr 30	Apr 30	Apr 30
May 7	May 7	May 7	May 7
May 14	May 14	May 14	May 14
May 21	May 21	May 21	May 21
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Jun 4	Jun 4	Jun 4	Jun 4
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Sep 3	Sep 3	Sep 3	Sep 3
Sep 10	Sep 10	Sep 10	Sep 10
Sep 17	Sep 17	Sep 17	Sep 17
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Sep 30	Sep 30	Sep 30	Sep 30
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Nov 4	Nov 4	Nov 4	Nov 4
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Dec 16	Dec 16	Dec 16	Dec 16
Dec 23	Dec 23	Dec 23	Dec 23
Dec 30	Dec 30	Dec 30	Dec 30
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TEMPUS McKechie predators proved wrong

After its narrow escape this year from two unwelcome predators, Williams Holdings and Evered, in quick succession, McKechie Brothers can heave a big sigh of relief and get on with running the business.

But there is little doubt that McKechie has been badly shaken and is now thoroughly conscious of the need to have its virtues recognized by the City and its shareholders. It recognizes the need for a strong performance to avoid future predatory attacks.

Yesterday's preliminary results were a good start. The market was pleased, pushing the shares up 5p to 238p.

The effect of disposals, closures and adverse exchange rates caused turnover for the year to July 31 to fall by 4 per cent to £212 million. Pretax profits, however, rose by 16 per cent to £19 million.

The improvement in profits would have been even greater had it not been for exceptional items of £1 million charged above the line and currency fluctuations, which reduced profit by £850,000.

The exceptional items comprised redundancy and reorganization costs of £1.3 million and a charge of £900,000 for stock depreciation, due to lower metal prices. Partly offsetting these two items, both of which should be non-recurring, was a credit of £1.2 million of pension holiday, which is expected to recur next year as a similar amount.

The group also had an extraordinary charge of £4 million of which £1.9 million was the cost of defending itself against the takeover bids. The balance was closure and disposal costs.

The company's strategy is clear. No less than 49 per cent of profits comes from plastics and consumer products in Britain, which will increase as the company gradually distances itself from its traditional metal-bashing activities. Its latest acquisition, PSM, for £24 million, provides exposure to new markets in the United States and Far East, increasing opportunities for expansion.

McKechie has come through a peak in the replacement of plant and machinery in plastics and consumer products and its equipment is efficient and has a long life ahead of it. Despite this, it has reduced its gearing from 21 per cent to 16 per cent and is modernizing its plant at McKechie Metals, spending £8 million over two years.

Pretax profit looks set to grow further this year to £23.5 million. Earnings growth will be less spectacular as the tax charge is likely to rise to near 35 per cent compared with 28 per cent last year.

Earnings of 24p a share put the shares on an earnings multiple of 9.9 times. The prospective yield is more than 6 per cent and twice covered. The downside looks limited.

British & Commonwealth

Lord Cayzer, the chairman of British & Commonwealth Shipping, gave a warning earlier this year that it might be difficult to make sense of the group's profit figures in what he described as a year of transformation. It would be necessary to look beyond earnings per share to measure B & C's performance, he said.

There have been major disposals of associate holdings in companies such as Exco and O.C.L. which made big contributions last year. Tender shares have been sold and, in all, analysts were yesterday pointing to a

list of other disposals and acquisitions, which numbered in their mid-tens.

For a worthwhile analysis, investors must wait until the full year and the balance sheet, which will give details of the movements on reserves and other telling details.

Meanwhile, what emerged yesterday gives, at face value, a misleadingly bearish impression. Pretax profits for the half-year to June 30 came out at £25.4 million, compared with £44.2 million last time, after a sharply lower contribution from associates.

This totalled only £6.2 million, compared with £25.4 million. The bottom line shows earnings per share of 7.3p, compared with 11.0p. B & C says that there is an underlying improvement of some £6 million in profits from group operations.

The market gave a cautious response to the figures, but long-term holders should wait and see what impetus Mr John Gunn, the new chief executive, manages to inject.

Gerrard & National

Gerrard & National, the discount house, has produced an interim statement which probably everyone entering the new gilt-edged market on Monday would wish to have avoided — but it is certainly a good deal better than many of its rivals.

Group profits for the six months to October 6, the company says, were small. The directors have therefore decided to pay an unchanged interim dividend of 3p.

The stock market paid very little heed to this, marking the shares down a mere 2p to 272p, even though it must have been a considerable disappointment after the 100 per cent profit rise achieved over the whole of last year.

The reason is that this interim performance was hardly a surprise. In common with many gilt market operators, Gerrard judged earlier in the year that interest rates were heading down rather than up. It was wrong.

It had expected base rates of around 8.5 per cent by the year-end but is now faced with something nearer 11.5 per cent. Gilt yields inevitably rose during the six month period, from 8.85 per cent in July to 11.75 per cent by October in the one-year maturities.

That Gerrard made any profit at all under these conditions is something of an achievement. Some huge losses have been whispered about the market in recent months, with the redoubtable Merrill Lynch the most frequently mentioned name.

The discount house is now sounding outwardly confident of its prospects as one of the 27 gilt market-makers. It is ambitiously aiming to trade the full range of stocks, though it is not going for an enormous market share.

But however able a company like Gerrard looks in comparison with competitors, guessing the right value for its shares can be no more than that.

The sharp drop in profitability shows that the discount houses still suffer from their traditional earnings volatility. There is little reason to suppose that this will diminish after Monday.

The good news, however, is that the outlook for gilt prices is generally bullish. The experts may have got it wrong again, but most of them expect interest rates to weaken from their current level over the next few months. That should give the new gilt market valuable help, and houses like Gerrard should benefit accordingly.

Plessey wins £2m 'breakthrough' deal

COMPANY NEWS

Plessey, the telecommunications company, yesterday announced a £2 million contract in Oman which it described as "a big breakthrough" and the biggest order of its type won by the company in the Arab world.

It took nine months of negotiations to obtain the contract for several integrated services digital exchanges, involving some 6,000 telephone lines. A company spokesman said there was a possibility of further orders when the network was expanded.

In brief

● **AMERICAN BRANDS:** Third-quarter results. Net income \$31.6 million (£22.06 million), against \$114.4 million and net income per share 25 cents (\$1.00). Consolidated sales \$2.2 billion (\$2 billion).

● **RATNERS (JEWELLERS):** Ratners subsidiary, H Samuel, will redeem all its outstanding £714,000 6.3 per cent, first mortgage debenture stock, 1985/90, at par on January 26.

● **STOCKLAKE HOLDINGS:** Year to March 31. Total dividend unchanged at 12p. Turnover £22.77 million (£24.17 million). Pretax profit £4.02 million (£3.82 million) and earnings per share 50.6p (47.2p).

● **BOND CORPORATIONS:** The corporation has announced plans to remove all short-term debt from its balance sheet through refinancing.

● **TRINOVIA CORPORATION:** The company, formerly the Libbey-Owens-Ford Co, the US-based distributor and manufacturer of power and motion control products, is seeking a listing on the London Stock Exchange on November 3.

● **ORD MINNETT:** These Sydney-based international investment bankers and stockbroker will become a member of the London Stock Exchange from next Monday.

● **SMITHS INDUSTRIES:** The company has won an export order worth £15 million to supply avionics for the F-5E fighter aircraft.

● **WOLSTENHOLME RINK:** Charles Openshaw and Sons (Manchester), a subsidiary of Wolstenholme Rink, has purchased Graphicon International Holdings for £1.2 million cash. Graphicon (trading as Agaprinta-Griffin and AC Wieser) is a private company, formerly of London and now in Rochdale, Lancashire, where it carries on a business in the processing and distributing of products for the printing industry.

● **NORTHERN TELECOM:** The company has been awarded a contract for a SL-100 large private automatic branch exchange (PABX) to be supplied to the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA) in Britain. The CCTA, an agency of the Treasury, is responsible for advising and supporting Government departments in the identification and assessment of information technology applications and in the selection of systems and equipment. The SL-100 tandem switch will be located in London and comes into service in July 1987. It will connect central Government's PABXs into the Government nationwide telephone network and will initially handle 3,000 trunk lines.

● **GROSVENOR GROUP:** Hollis is making an offer for the share capital of Grosvenor and is seeking to a meeting with the board of Grosvenor and its advisers as soon as possible. Terms for every four ordinary shares in Grosvenor, seven new ordinary shares in Hollis. Grosvenor holders will be able to receive their consideration wholly or partly in cash at 135p per share. Hollis has received an irrevocable undertaking to accept in respect of 635,898 Grosvenor shares (10.2 per cent) and a further irrevocable undertaking to accept the cash alternative for 138,139 Grosvenor shares (2.23 per cent). These undertakings also incorporate options exercisable by Hollis to acquire these shares for consideration equivalent to those available under the offer and cash alternative respectively. Hollis also owns 160,000 Grosvenor shares (2.56 per cent).

● **PPL HOLDINGS:** Kalon of Canada has acquired PPL's Canadian subsidiary, Norampac Software, which has become PPL's distributor in North America. The principal element of the consideration is the guarantee by Kalon of Norampac's obligation to repay to PPL a loan of Can\$500,000 (£251,000).

● **SAPPHIRE PETROLEUM:** Talks have started which may lead to the utilization of the group's US tax losses.

● **NORTH MIDLAND CONSTRUCTION:** Year to Aug. 31. No dividend (0.3p). Turnover £9.01 million (£8.46 million). Profit, before tax and extraordinary items, £155,000 (£65,000 loss). Extraordinary income, nil (£169,000 credit). Earnings per share 3.88p (6.75p).

● **PHILIP HILL INVESTMENT TRUST:** BCC's offer

has been accepted for 1.26 million preference shares (96.59 per cent). It is now unconditional in all respects and remains open until further notice. The offer for the ordinary shares not already owned became unconditional on Sept. 25 and remains open.

● **BROWNLEE:** Meyer International's offer has been accepted for 21.96 million ordinary shares (about 91.9 per cent). The ordinary offer, including the loan-note alternative, will remain open until further notice.

● **YORK & EQUITY TRUST:** The offer for Nowfront (the holding company of Richards Longstaff) has been accepted for 186,134 shares (99.5 per cent). It is now unconditional and will remain open until further notice.

● **LONDON & EDINBURGH TRUST:** The trust reports the forward funding of Nightingale House, its new office scheme in Curzon St, London. Completion is expected towards the end of 1987.

● **BARLOWS:** Half-year to June 30. Turnover £166,964 (£258,956). Loss before tax £5,666 (£14,089 profit). Extraordinary profit (less tax), nil (£131,325). Loss per share before extraordinary profit, 2.0p (earnings of 3.3p after extraordinary profit, 2.0p (earnings of 11.4p)).

● **INCHCAPE:** In Australia, Macdonald Hamilton, a subsidiary of Inchcape, has bought the office products division of the Delacoro Group for Aus\$9.5 million (£4 million). Inchcape has been granted the franchise for the import and distribution of all Toyota vehicles and spare

parts in Greece from January 1, representing an initial investment in properties and other fixed assets of £4.4 million.

● **WESTERN SELECTION:** In the recent rights issue, 3.97 million new shares (85.2 per cent) were taken up. The balance of 483,208 was sold in the market and the excess over the subscription price (net of expenses) of 5.64p per share, will be distributed among the original allottees. Amounts of less than £2 will be retained for the benefit of Western.

● **CARLTON INDUSTRIES:** Six months to June 30. No dividend (nil). Sales £69.52 million (£65.28 million). Pretax profit £8.29 million (£6.68 million). Earnings per share 16.2p (12.5p).

● **INDUSTRIAL FINANCE AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION:** By October 17, acceptances had been received for 2.54 million ordinary shares (91.5 per cent of the ordinary shares offered in the rights issue). The balance of 236,595 shares has been allotted to APA Holdings. Since September 25, APA has bought 330,000 ordinary shares, bringing its total holding to 7.36 million ordinaries (44.13 per cent).

● **FIRST CHARLOTTE ASSETS TRUST:** Six months to September 30. Pretax profit £76,000 (£46,000). Earnings per share 0.07p (0.03p). Net asset value per share 13p (11p).

● **HUNTERPRINT GROUP:** The company has won a contract worth £1.5 million a year for the origination, printing, binding and nationwide distribution of 1.4 million monthly 'Candis booklets' from Newhall Publications.

● **EXPLORATION COMPANY:** Six months to June 30. Pretax profit £731,000 (£735,000). Earnings per share 3.94p (3.75p).

APPOINTMENTS

James Halstead Group: Mr Geoff Bates has been made financial director. Conway Leisure Products.

Scandinavian Bank: Mr Tom Palmberg, a deputy managing director, has been appointed head of the international division.

Baker & McKenzie: Mr Gerald Cooke and Mr Philip Rutherford become partners.

Stewart Wrightson Corporate Risks: Mr G Boden becomes chairman. Mr G F Nixon chief executive, and Mr W G Davidson and Mr A P Gavaghan deputy chief executives. Mr W M Barratt, Mr D A J Connor, Mr P A Dawson, Mr D L Elliot, Mr T F McDonald, Mr B E Papp, Mr W G Sturrock, Mr J M West and Mr G R Whitfield become directors.

Richards and Appleby: Mr Trevor D Johnson becomes joint managing director. Mr Peter Crichton becomes deputy managing director, Standard Soap.

RTS: Mr Hugh McCartney is made European managing director.

Waterford Glass Group: Mr Howard E Kilroy becomes non-executive deputy chairman. Mr Anthony Brophy joins the board as financial director. Mr William Power becomes director and general manager, Waterford Crystal.

Superior Care (New York): Mr Charles McQuay becomes vice-president and chief financial officer. Mr Joel Wittman becomes vice-president, corporate development and Mr Neil Cook vice-president, legal services and corporate secretary.

Waterford Glass Group: Mr Howard E Kilroy becomes non-executive deputy chairman. Mr Anthony Brophy joins the board as financial director. Mr William Power becomes director and general manager, Waterford Crystal.

Superior Care (New York): Mr Charles McQuay becomes vice-president and chief financial officer. Mr Joel Wittman becomes vice-president, corporate development and Mr Neil Cook vice-president, legal services and corporate secretary.



Our patch.

When you're trading round the world for 24 hours a day, it's not enough to stay wide awake. Though we do.

Nor is it enough to invest in up-to-the-minute technology. Though we have.

It's not even enough to pick bright people. Though we've spent years gathering the brightest bunch in the business.

You have to be at home in all the major markets.

Not just knowledgeable about them, but familiar with them.

As members of the London and the New York Stock Exchanges, and proud owners of a licence to trade securities in Tokyo, the Kleinwort Benson Group is a

permanent resident of the Big Three.

We have offices and subsidiaries throughout America, the Pacific Basin and Europe.

By almost any yardstick, we're the biggest of Britain's merchant banks, so we've plenty of financial muscle.

We underwrote over a third of the equity capital raised in the UK last year, more than any other firm. In the first half of this year we advised on over 30 UK takeover and merger transactions worth £8 billion.

But we'd rather you loved us for our brains than our brawn.

Did you know, for example, that many of the most sophisticated 'swaps' now in use were invented by our people in

Los Angeles?

Or that Kleinwort Benson Government Securities in Chicago is a well-established primary dealer in the US Treasury market?

We believe that, by merging with leading brokers Grieson Grant, we've established a major world financial group.

Banking, corporate finance, investment management, stockbroking, security dealing: we'll be happy to talk to you about any of them.

And wherever we meet, we'll be on our home ground.

Kleinwort Benson

The bright people in the right places.

Gerrard & National HOLDINGS PLC

INTERIM STATEMENT

The Company's year started on a most promising note but then trading conditions worsened as further reductions in interest rates failed to materialise. United Kingdom fixed interest markets became volatile and then deteriorated rapidly. Group profits for the first six months of the year are small.

The Directors have decided to pay an interim dividend on the recently increased capital in respect of the half year to 5th October 1986 at 3p per share (1985: 3p per share) which will cost £1,143,426. The dividend will be paid on 3rd December 1986 to members on the register at the close of business on 7th November 1986. Transfer books will be closed for the day on 10th November 1986.

It is not the practice of the Company to send the half yearly report to shareholders but it is published in recognised financial newspapers and copies of it are available to the public at the Company's registered office, 32 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9BE.

23rd October 1986

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Portfolio
—Gold—

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Flaxton (GB)	Motor/Aircraft	
2	Freck	Industrials L-R	
3	Greyhound	Property	
4	Transcontinental	Industrials S-Z	
5	First Nat Finance	Bank/Discount	
6	Memans	Food	
7	Davis (Godfrey)	Motor/Aircraft	
8	Deblair	Industrials L-R	
9	Arlington Sec	Property	
10	Bevan	Food	
11	McKee	Industrials L-R	
12	Armstrong	Building/Roads	
13	Belhaven	Property	
14	Forman	Draper/Stores	
15	RHP	Industrials L-R	
16	Whitcroft	Industrials S-Z	
17	Thames	Oil	
18	Dew (George)	Building/Roads	
19	Amper	Oil	
20	Gerber Energy	Oil	
21	Hill Samuel	Bank/Discount	
22	Burns-McDonnell	Industrials A-D	
23	Chambers	Bank/Discount	
24	LWT Hides	Chemicals/Pet	
25	Evatt	Chemicals/Pet	
26	Prop Hides	Property	
27	Pennar (JH)	Industrials E-K	
28	Bodycote	Industrials A-D	
29	General Motor	Motor/Aircraft	
30	Stanley Leisure	Leisure	
31	Taylor Woodrow	Building/Roads	
32	Proper	Property	
33	Ferguson Ind	Paper/Print/Adv	
34	Campan	Leisure	
35	Audio Fidelity	Electronics	
36	Dun	Industrials A-D	
37	AIM	Industrials A-D	
38	Century	Oil	
39	Spina-Sarco	Industrials S-Z	
40	Tussell	Electronics	
41	Scott & New	Bank/Discount	
42	AAI	Industrials A-D	
43	Am New Z	Bank/Discount	
44	Trans Newspapers Ltd.	Daily Total	

Please be sure to take account of any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

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1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares are marked lower

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began on October 13. Dealings end tomorrow. \$Contango day October 27. Settlement day November 3.

\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

BREWERIES

1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

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1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

1986	High	Low	Mid	Close	YTD	%

PLYMOUTH

FOCUS

Drake's city sets
a new course for
the 21st century

When Plymouth celebrates the 400th anniversary of the defeat of the Armada in 1588, it hopes to welcome not only a large contingent of peaceful Spaniards, but also the representatives of more than 50 other Plymouths scattered across the world.

Drake and the Pilgrim Fathers between them ensured that the city's name was secure forever in the history books.

It is indeed no mean feat, and not just because of its long unbroken association with our maritime past. Once the fourth largest in Britain, it is still the largest on the south coast, the centre and industrial hub of Devon and Cornwall.

Its spectacular setting and many handsome streets and buildings are an obvious source of civic pride. But along with the elegance goes a rough, bluff self-confidence.

This is no Brighton or Bournemouth, but a working seaport — a sailors' town, not afraid to display its rough edges; a place which has suffered and shows its scars proudly.

It was from Plymouth that a large part of the D-Day invasion fleet assembled and set sail. That was apt revenge for the German air raids of earlier in the war, when the Luftwaffe showed exactly how much it rated Plymouth's importance by subjecting it to one of the most savage poundings meted out to any British city.

A year before the fleet set sail, the city fathers were already designing the new centre that would arise from the rubble. It was to be the first post-war comprehensive redevelopment and would serve as a model for the rebuilding of Europe.

At the time it was built it was widely admired, the wide sweeping avenues and modernistic rectangular buildings testifying to the planners' confidence in being able to create a brave new world. But times and tastes have changed

and paradise has had to be postponed.

The refurbished lanes and alleyways of the nearby Barbican are more to contemporary taste.

Today's civic leaders openly admit to the deficiencies of the rebuilt centre of which their fathers were so proud, in particular the over-emphasis on traffic at the expense of pedestrians.

"The place was designed before anyone foresaw the explosion in motor car ownership," said Tom Savery, the council's deputy leader.

"It is also true that post-war design with all its straight lines is a bit soulless," Mr Savery said. "We have got to update the whole concept. We regard our plans as futuristic and we

pedestrianization, city officials are enthusiastic about introducing covered shopping malls on the North American pattern. The new Armada shopping centre is a step in this direction, but there is also talk of roofing over whole streets from which traffic has been banished.

But "Tomorrow's Plymouth" is not confined solely to the centre. One of the most important new developments will be a conference and leisure complex on the site of the old Millbay station. It will contain a pool, an ice rink and a hall seating up to 2,500 people, which can be used for concerts, exhibitions and sports events.

A new four-star hotel is due to open next year, relieving pressure on accommodation.

A new visitor centre is to be opened on the Hoe. And Millbay docks, which in recent years have provided an inadequate base for important sailing events, have already been replaced by a new marina at Queen Anne's Battery on the other side of town.

Not the least remarkable aspect of the whole scheme is the readiness of a Conservative council to commit up to £30 million of public funds during the next three or four years.

"The public sector must take the initiative in these matters in order to attract private investment," Mr Forbes-Watson argues. "Otherwise private investors are just not interested and will go somewhere else."

It is not a viewpoint that would appeal to some members of the Cabinet. But of one initiative Mrs Thatcher would surely approve, namely the council's decision 10 years ago to set up the Plymouth Marketing Bureau to "sell" the city both nationally and abroad.

It has now embarked upon its biggest "sale", which suggests that you cannot rely exclusively on Drake and the Pilgrim Fathers.

City's name is secure forever in the history books

think the results will last well into the next century.

The plans outlined in a handsome new brochure aim to provide better links between the centre, the Barbican and the Hoe. The accent is heavily on increased pedestrianization, most notably that of Armada Way, the principal artery of the post-war redevelopment.

Much of the pressure for change has come from retailers in the centre who fear that Plymouth is being left behind in the competition to attract customers. The particular fear is of a proposal to build an out-of-town "regional shopping centre" near Exeter.

Andrew Forbes-Watson, the council's chief executive, is predictably scornful of this proposal. "Exeter is ready to sell its birthright," he said, in much the same terms as Oxford man refers to the Garter Place.

As an accompaniment to



Historic interest and scenic beauty: a view of Plymouth Sound and Plymouth Hoe from the Royal Citadel

Making the most of the waterfront

The West Country has long been Britain's favourite domestic holiday region, even though the attractions of warmer, more reliable climates have made inroads in recent years into its traditional market.

But amid all the breeze and bustle of the dozens of resorts lining the coasts of Devon and Cornwall, Plymouth has remained somewhat aloof, a serious city amid the seasonal frivolities, with only a passing interest in the comings and goings of tourists.

But it increasingly sees itself as the regional tourist centre, a place which does not just benefit at second hand from the money brought in by visitors, but which promotes its own attractions.

One of the key factors in this change of attitude has been its maritime legacy. The transatlantic liners have long since gone and even the Navy has a less obvious presence than it used to. But leisure boating has enjoyed an unprecedented boom.

In recent years Plymouth has been the starting and/or finishing point for all sorts of important yacht races, including the single-handed transatlantic, the round-the-world and the round-Britain races.

The biennial Fastnet race starts from Coves but traditionally ends in Plymouth Sound.

It was at Plymouth that the late Sir Francis Chichester ended his epic solo pilgrimage nearly 20 years ago. It became the centre of a whole new sailing philosophy, based not on competing round buoys in sheltered bays, but on racing for thousands of miles over the open oceans.

During these years the commercial Millbay docks have provided a basin

in which boats could be moored, but little else. The glamour of yachts from dozens of countries, with their internationally famous skippers — men like Chay Blyth, Eric Tabarly and John Ridgway — has contrasted sharply with the shoddiness of the surroundings, with cargoes heaped on the quayside and a depressing lack of even the most basic facilities.

Now at last the city has realized the importance of this business to the local economy. The new marina — or

afford the new berthing fees. But, on the whole, the benefits were seen as far outweighing the objections.

The marina will provide 300 permanent berths, a high proportion of which have already been booked. Mark Gatehouse, its director and an experienced and successful long-distance sailor, has dared to think the unthinkable, namely that Britain might win the America's Cup, in which case Plymouth would undoubtedly be one of the leading candidates to stage the next series.

That may be pipedreaming, but Mr Gatehouse is enthusiastic about the prospects for more waterfront development and renovation as more and more former military and industrial sites come on to the market. "Plymouth has never really made the most of its historic setting," he said. "In many ways it is the most underdeveloped city in Britain."

For some that may be part of its attraction, but no one could surely deny the success of the Sutton Harbour rehabilitation, where the old city docks have been transformed into a busy haven for small boats.

The adjoining Barbican area, which not many years ago had a decidedly dubious reputation, is now a mass of colourful small shops, restaurants and wine bars, and is an important tourist attraction.

Some of the claims made for Plymouth in its tourist literature may be a little far-fetched. "Sweeping down from the wild natural beauty of Dartmoor and nesting among spectacular Devon and Cornwall coastline, the location of Plymouth Hoe and the breathtaking views over Plymouth Sound are 'incomparable

with anything...anywhere...in the world."

But in the combination of its own historic interest and the beauty of the countryside on its doorstep, it is certainly well placed to take much more advantage of tourism.

Confidence is evident in the forthcoming opening of the new four-star Copthorne Hotel, owned by a subsidiary of British Caledonian which already has hotels near Gatwick and in Aberdeen and Glasgow, and is building two others in Birmingham and Manchester.

The opening will add a further 135 rooms to an existing total of 7,000 beds in hotels, boarding houses and self-catering accommodation. The date chosen is March 17, marking the 40th anniversary of the post-war city centre redevelopment, in which the Copthorne forms the final link.

Inevitably, the city's marketing bureau, which is primarily responsible for tourist development and promotion, is making the most of its North American links.

Brochures recall not just the departure of the Mayflower and the Pilgrim Fathers' settlement at Plymouth, Massachusetts, but the earlier landing by Drake on the coast of California and his claim to have taken possession of it for Queen Elizabeth and to have christened it New Albion.

Plymouth's greatest moment will be re-enacted in July 1988, to mark the 400th anniversary of the Armada. The programme includes costumed balls and picnics, or races, chains of bonfires, Elizabethan fairs, a banquet, a bowls tournament, yacht races and children's events.

If that does not put the city firmly on the tourist map, nothing will.

The Way Forward



Royal Parade



Pedestrianisation
Plymouth Sound



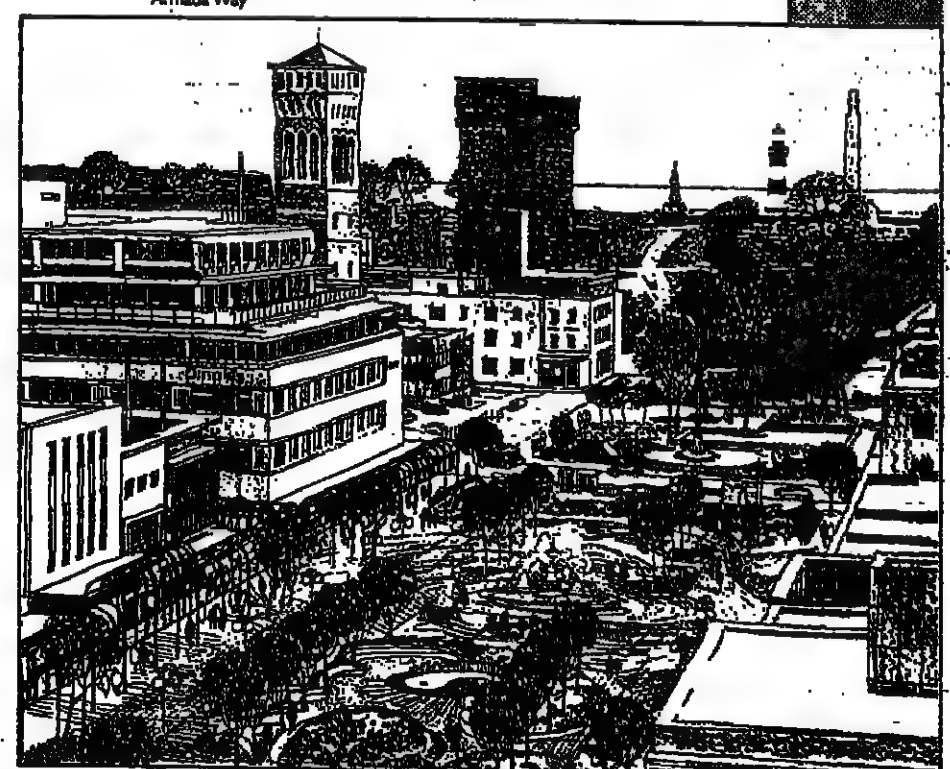
Armada Shopping Centre

The devastation of the Blitz stimulated the 1943 plan for Plymouth which created a city centre that was visionary and made Plymouth the South West's major shopping centre. The plan's achievements were acknowledged and admired not just in the city but throughout the world; it provided a framework upon which successive generations could build.

There is now need for further imaginative development — to adapt the city to provide for the needs and expectations for the 1990's and beyond.

"Tomorrow's Plymouth" is a statement of intent; it combines the council's aim to improve Plymouth's environment and prosperity, with a commitment to take action and encourage private sector participation.

The way forward is detailed in a publication 'Tomorrow's Plymouth', if you would like to participate in our future — contact Graham Jones, City Estates Surveyor, Civic Centre, Plymouth PL1 2EW Devon. Tel: 0752 668000 — for further details.



Armada Way



Armada Shopping Centre



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PLYMOUTH/2

Overseas help in the fight to create jobs

No town likes to be dependent upon a single industry because of the social havoc that can be caused by a drop in demand for its products and a consequent decline in its workforce.

There have been several dismaying illustrations of this in Britain in recent years and Plymouth, in particular, would vigorously resist any implication that it was a one-industry city.

Nevertheless, the huge Royal Naval dockyard at Devonport has for generations dominated the local economy. The workforce has dropped to fewer than 12,000 from a post-war peak of 20,000, but it still accounts for an astonishing 44 per cent of all jobs within the travel-to-work area.

The dangers of over-reliance on the dockyard were recognized at least as early as the immediate post-war years. Efforts were made to attract newcomers, among the earliest of which were Tecalemit, manufacturing motor components, Bush radios and Berkertex clothing, all at that time heavily labour-intensive operations.

But Plymouth suffered from its lack of tradition as a manufacturing centre, which meant it was unfamiliar to potential investors and from what in those days was seen as its daunting remoteness.

The city had long boasted an excellent train service but, before the age of motorways, the road journey to the West Country from London or the Midlands was notorious for its delays and frustrations.

Against that it was able to advertise the attractions of its superb surrounding countryside and all the amenities that go with being located on a beautiful stretch of coast.

Such considerations appealed particularly to the new "clean" technological industries, many of them foreign-owned, whose executives saw no reason for moving to the grime of the industrial North and Midlands.

Between 1959 and 1973 there was a steady flow of new firms, lured by green-field sites and by a plentiful and

generally well-disciplined labour force.

History and sentiment may have had something to do with the fact that many were American-owned. There are now 15 companies in Plymouth whose head offices are in the US, including Arrow Harts/Crouse Hinds (specialty switches), Gleason (engineering), Ranco Controls (refrigeration and heating) and Texas Instruments.

By the early 1970s the local economy was even showing signs of overheating and labour shortages. But the recession of 1973, and the huge shedding of labour in British industry that has continued since, changed all that.

Unemployment is now more than 15 per cent and there are fears that further redundancies in the dockyard could push the figure to more than 20 per cent.

The area has kept its intermediate assisted area status, although government grants are less attractive than they were in the 1960s. But with so

Leisure boat work has been a notable success

little expansion within established British industry, the city is obliged to compete for new investment from overseas, mainly the US and Japan, with a publicity and marketing budget only a fraction of those of, say, Wales or Scotland.

Nevertheless, it can claim a fair degree of success. With the exception of Rank Radio, which closed a few years ago with the loss of 1,700 jobs, it has escaped large-scale closures. Even the Rank operation has been partly restarted by Toshiba, although with a smaller labour force.

The largest of the overseas investments, in terms of employment, is Ranco Controls. It manufactures a wide range of products, including



First-hand experience: David Johnston, heading a new company to save Devonport

refrigerators, air conditioners, electric cookers, washing machines, tumble driers and central heating equipment in three factories in Plymouth and a fourth at Bodmin, in Cornwall.

It employs more than 1,000 and exports nearly three-quarters of its output.

Home-based high tech is represented by British Aerospace, making guidance and control systems, and by Plessey which has recently spent more than £50 million on what is claimed to be one of the world's most advanced microchip factories.

If all goes according to plan, the latter should eventually employ 600. In boatbuilding, a notable success story is Marine Projects Ltd, which started in 1965 and now employs more than 750 people manufacturing yachts and motor cruisers.

With annual sales of £30 million, about half of which are exported, the company claims to be the largest boatbuilder in Britain and probably the third largest in Europe.

Another interesting newcomer is Devonshire Meadows which, with enthusiastic co-operation from the Milk Marketing Board, is producing a cream liqueur.

It hopes to rival Bailey's, made in the Irish Republic, which in a short time has become the world's bestselling liqueur.

High hopes are being placed in the new Langage Business Park, and the introduction by Brynmor Airways of four services a day to and from Heathrow and two to Gatwick has boosted city morale.

It expects to be one of the first cities in Europe to be linked to the new Stalport in London's docklands.

Briannys Ferries operates a daily service to Roscoff and twice a week to Santander in northern Spain. The opening of the M5 between Bristol and Exeter, and the construction and improvement of other roads in the West Country, have also helped to dissipate the feeling of remoteness.

But with unemployment still well above the national average, Graham Jones, the city estates surveyor, does not disguise the difficulties. "Trying to get inward investment is

very difficult these days," he said. "Most of the recent expansion has been in existing industries."

"We still have a desperate need to widen our employment base." We have had considerable success when it comes to manufacturing, considering the national decline, but we still have little office employment.

Tourism and conferences are seen as important for job creation in the coming years. But perhaps Mr Jones's greatest comfort is that his office has had more inquiries this year from small firms than at any time in the past 10 years.

Local disquiet in the docks

Seldom, if ever, can a single issue have so dominated the local press and radio in Devon and Cornwall as the future of the giant Devonport Naval dockyard.

This is hardly surprising, considering that nearly every other working man in and around Plymouth is employed there and its weekly wages bill amounts to £2,500,000.

Its 13 docks, three of them covered to form a huge all-weather frigate "shed", are set in a 332-acre site spread along two-and-a-half miles of waterfront. It is the largest ship repair yard in western Europe and 14 times larger than any private shipbuilding premises in the UK.

Devonport has its origins in national disquiet about the marauding activities of the Dutch, culminating in the indignity of allowing Admiral de Ruyter to sail up the Medway and inflict serious damage on the English fleet.

The Royal Navy clearly had to be strengthened and, by a nice twist of irony, it was the "Dutch" king, William of Orange, who commissioned the building of the new dockyard.

Its importance to the local economy during the past three centuries has been ineluctable.

However, times are changing. Fortunately Devonport has been spared the sad fate of Chatham - closure - but it is to be privatized and that is what is causing all the fuss.

Local opposition to its sale, particularly among the workforce and the trade unions, was and is strong. But for at least the past 15 years

there has been widespread dissatisfaction with its performance and in 1982, Michael Heseltine, who was then Secretary of State for Defence, commissioned Peter Levene, an industrial expert, to look at ways of making it more efficient.

Mr Levene's conclusion broadly was that, while there was little wrong with management or with the workforce, it was operating under a number of constraints, and it would be better to establish a commercial relationship between the dockyard and the Royal Navy. The Government agreed. In

Three companies in the bidding

a leaflet published last August it pointed out that Devonport cost £294 million to run in the 1985-86 financial year and declared that its policy was to get better value for money in all areas of public spending.

In future, regular competition for the management contract and for ship work would make Devonport more competitive and give better value for money, it said.

But despite assurances that their pay and conditions, pension, redundancy and trade union rights would be protected, and that they would be consulted on all decisions, the workforce remained hostile and suspicious.

Suspensions were increased when it was learned that among those making interested noises were large conglomerates, such as British Aerospace and Trafalgar

House. Both firms have since withdrawn from the race, but two joint venture companies have been established to bid for the contract.

One, Devonport Operations Ltd (DOL), has been formed by Foster Wheeler, Wharton Williams (Holdings), A & P Appledore and Investors in Industry Group. The other is a partnership between Brown & Root, Vickers and Lazard Brothers, called Devonport Management Ltd.

But a third, and in many ways the most interesting candidate, is Devonport Dockyard Ltd, a company set up by the present managing director, David Johnston, with nine senior colleagues, which last December broke ranks with the rest of the workforce in opposing the sale and decided to bid for a management buy-out.

Mr Johnston believes firmly that his own experience in the dockyard, where he began work as an apprentice, gives him a decided superiority. "We do not want to see the management of Devonport Dockyard pass to a company which has little knowledge of the Navy or the business of refitting ships," he said.

He has no doubt that changes are needed and that economies must be made.

It is the opportunity offered to every employee to own a share of the new company, together with local sentiment in favour of a local group, that he hopes will persuade the Government that he has the best chance of winning over the opposition. Shortly before Christmas he will know if he has succeeded.

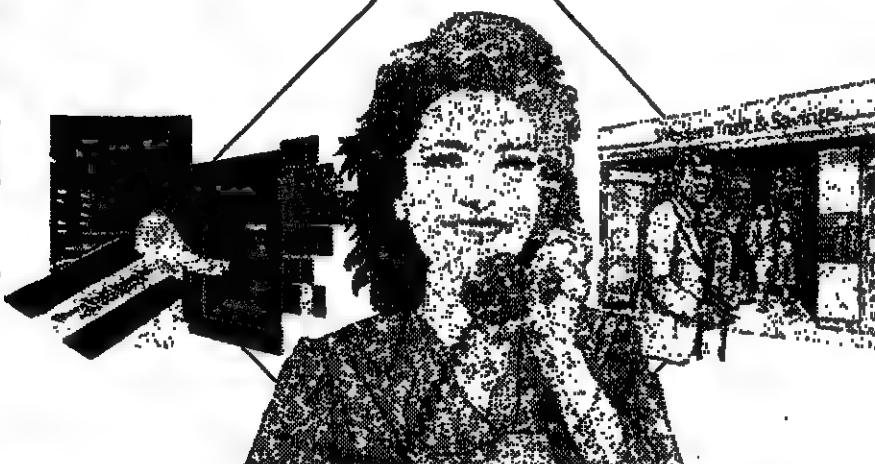
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YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Accountants must look to small clients

By Derek Harris

Accountants have the chance to create a more efficient small-business sector with a higher degree of financial awareness among those running small firms, according to a study by the Small Business Research Trust.

But it means tackling the suspicions small businesses have of accountants while the profession could introduce changes to help small firms more, the survey suggests.

Most small businesses keep good financial records but are unable to interpret the data. Yet, as the survey points out, business owners can have an astute, intuitive appreciation of profitability, liquidity and financial efficiency. It leaves small businesses reluctant to approach accountants for

help, partly because of mistrust of what services are being offered and how final fees will be arrived at.

The actual level of fees did not, however, appear to be a special worry. But owner-managers in small businesses often think that accountants do not understand them or their businesses, says the survey.

It suggests that the accountancy profession should take a number of initiatives, including:

- promoting "on site" counselling services;
- establishing management-information system guidelines;
- developing an independent follow-up service to monitor the impact of business plans and other proposals;

- help set up locally-based accountancy system "surgeries" and workshops;
- develop a quality audit of small-firm procedures so as to measure the performance overall of businesses;
- review accountancy-fee structures for clarity with an annual review of services.

Accountants would need training to fulfil a wider small-business role, the survey says, but adds that the suggested changes could be of "enormous benefit" to small business development. It could also bring accountants more business, it points out.

* *Accounting for Growth: small firm growth and the accountancy profession*, £10, from Small Business Research Trust, 3 Dean Trench Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3HR.

Marketing the ideas of others

By Peta Levi

Many designers have brilliant ideas — and many of them remain just that. Now a company has been formed to develop and market such ideas — at no charge.

Design Marketing Ltd (DML) was formed in 1985 by the entrepreneurs Brian Rogers, Peter Pearce and Peter Carter, with backing from BBHQ, a joint venture between Baring Brothers and Hambrecht & Quist, the American venture capitalists.

DML operate an open-door policy. Anyone with a marketable design or idea can phone or write. Strict confidentiality is observed, so that they will not interview a designer before signing a non-disclosure agreement.

Results, says Mr Rogers, are encouraging: of 500 ideas put forward over the last year, 40 are being closely investigated, one has already been launched and 12 are due to be in the next six months.

The designer-inventor is not asked to put up any money. A licensing arrangement is made between DML and the designer, with DML financing the development and manufacture and the designer receiving a royalty on every product sold. Royalties vary depending on factors like sales volume.

He or she is encouraged to help develop the product, for which there is also payment.

The first product DML is launching came from Sir Clive Sinclair's brother, Ian, Professor of Industrial Design at the Royal College of Art. Mensa Steps is said to be the ultimate IQ game. You have to answer a question correctly before being able to buy it for £24.95. So far, 3,500 Mensa Steps have sold by mail order and it is being launched in the US.

The second product to be launched is an apron with attached elasticized oven gloves, designed by Belinda Winstanley DML helped with packaging, bulk purchasing power and finding a manufacturer and a big retail chain to launch the apron in the New Year.



Brian Rogers: Results so far are encouraging

A London Transport engineer's idea for a baby-proof plug is being discussed. An idea by an American designer introduces a hi-fi speaker said to produce high-quality sound at low cost; this is in final stages of acoustical testing. Another project which has a pilot mail-order launch this week is a kit to sell your own house.

Mr Rogers, who is chairman of DML, is aged 41. He gave up research in aerodynamics at Cambridge to learn marketing with an international chemical company and after 11 years became disillusioned with large company ways. Five years later, he is chairman of three companies which have a combined turnover of £10 million.

The origin of DML can be traced back to another Rogers company, Heritage Crystal, which has a mass-production process for engraving crystal glass by computer.

One of Heritage's breakthroughs was to persuade British credit card companies to insert merchandise offers by mail order in monthly statements. It led to the production of a mail-order catalogue for Barclaycard.

In 1984 Mr Rogers set up Quorum which now distributes 25 million catalogues, featuring mainly novelty items which cannot be bought in shops. Quorum was offered many good ideas which needed financial and other development, the role DML has now taken on.

BRIEFING

■ A pilot experiment providing career-development loans is to be made more flexible, following an intervention by David Trippier, the Minister for Small Businesses. His talks with high-street banks have resulted in the minimum for loans being reduced from £500 to £200. It means more courses will qualify because a proportion of them costs less than £500.

The loans are available in four areas: Aberdeen, Bristol/Bath, Reading/Slough and Greater Manchester. They are part of a three-year trial but as soon as it appears to be successful it is likely to be replicated elsewhere. So far three banks are involved — Barclays, Co-operative and Clydesdale.

■ Women in Enterprise (WE), which promotes women in business, is organizing a *Women Mean Business* conference and exhibition at Wakefield, Yorkshire, on November 7. The aim is to help both women contemplating their own business and those who have already started. Free counselling will be available.

WE is responding to what it sees as a growing trend for women to run their own businesses. Last year about 6 per cent of small businesses in Britain were owned by women.

■ Contact: WE, 26 Bond Street, Wakefield WF1 2QP; phone (0824) 361789.



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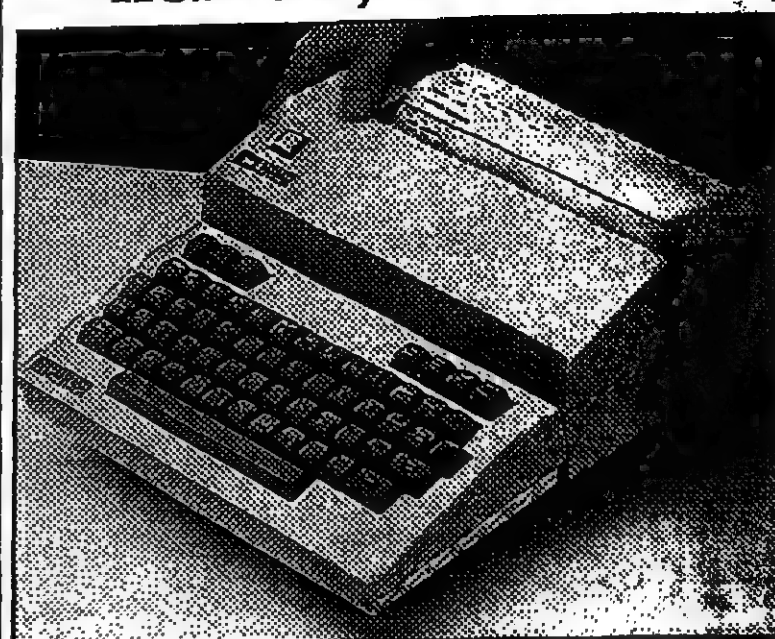
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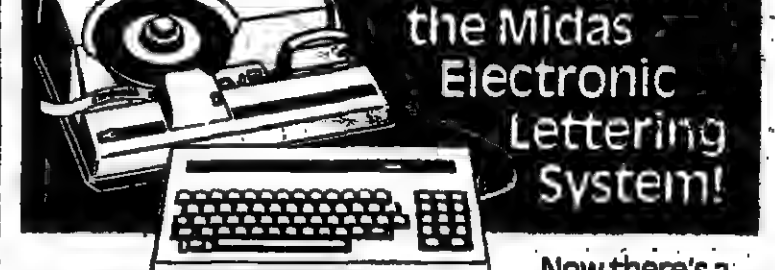
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Law Report October 24 1986

Summary dismissal for misconduct not unfair

Pritchett and Another v J. McIntyre Ltd
Before Lord Justice May, Lord Justice Mustill and Lord Justice Bingham
[Judgment given October 22]

The summary dismissal of two employees for misconduct was not rendered unfair because of the employer's failure to put the allegations of the misconduct to them and to invite them to give any possible explanations.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the employer, J. McIntyre Ltd, from a decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice White, Mr A. D. Scott and Mr P. Smith) that had reversed the decision of an industrial tribunal by granting declarations to the two applicants, Mr K. J. Pritchett and Mr J. Dyjak, that their dismissals had been unfair.

The applicants were refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Mr Christopher Butler for the employer, Mr Robin Allen for the applicants.

LORD JUSTICE MAY said that the applicants had applied to an industrial tribunal for a declaration that they had been unfairly dismissed — the provisions of section 77 of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 not having been satisfied by their employer. That tribunal held the dismissals to be fair.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal, allowing the applicants' appeal, held that the industrial tribunal's decision to be perverse — one that in the circumstances no reasonable tribunal could properly have come to. The employer appealed.

The employer was a metal merchant and processor. In 1984 investigations had been made into the disappearance of scrap metal and into the manipulation of samples that resulted in

employees receiving excessive bonus payments.

The police had been involved. A number of witnesses had implicated the two applicants and in consequence they had been put into a different shift and kept under observation.

In July 1984 valuable aluminium bars went missing and the employer formed the view that in all the circumstances the case against the applicants was absolutely unanswerable. No purpose was seen in calling them in for an interview and a decision was made to dismiss them both summarily there and then on the ground of their gross misconduct. The applicants had before the industrial tribunal denied any involvement in the allegations.

The industrial tribunal approached the case by directing themselves in accordance with the decision in *British Home Stores Ltd v Burchell* (1978) 1 IRLR 379. They concluded that the employer's belief in the guilt of the men was genuine, that reasonable grounds existed for the employer having that belief, and that in the circumstances the employer had carried out as much investigation into the matter as was reasonable.

Thus far no criticism had been made of the tribunal's conclusion. Indeed in the light of the findings of fact and the *Burchell* decision the industrial tribunal could have stopped there and concluded that the dismissals were fair.

However they had gone on to a further matter: the manner in which the dismissals had taken place. *British Labour Pump Ltd v Byrne* (1979) 1 IRLR 347 — an Employment Appeal Tribunal case concerning the correct approach in cases such as the present and which had been approved of by the Court of Appeal in *Daoum Services Ltd* (The Times October 23, 1986) — stated two questions that were to

be considered by the industrial tribunal, namely (1) had it been shown on a balance of probabilities that the employees would have taken the same course had an inquiry been held, and (2) had the employer shown that in the light of the information that he had and had he gone through all the normal procedures, he would still have been behaving reasonably in deciding to dismiss.

Such a test had been considered by the industrial tribunal. To have put the allegations to the applicants and to have invited their explanations would, it was held, have been a "meaningless formality".

Thus the tribunal concluded that notwithstanding the employer's failure to follow the normal dismissal procedures the dismissals did not make their dismissals unfair.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal decided that that was a conclusion that offended reason and, properly directed as to the law, was not one that was open to the industrial tribunal.

However, it was quite apparent that the tribunal had directed themselves wholly correctly as to the law. Moreover it had been more than clear to that tribunal that in a normal case the failure of an employer to put allegations of misconduct to an employee would usually make his dismissal unfair — the manner of the dismissal being a matter to be taken into account.

But it was not possible to say that the industrial tribunal had not been entitled to decide these two cases as they had or to categorize their decision as being perverse. The Employment Appeal Tribunal was not justified in holding as they did.

LORD JUSTICE MUSTILL and LORD JUSTICE BINGHAM agreed.

Solicitors: Turner Kenneth Brown for Harrison Golds & Rushworth, Nottingham; Freeth Cartwright & Skitchley, Nottingham.

School governors' findings of fact cannot be reheard by committee

McGoldrick v Brent London Borough Council
Before Mr Justice Roch
[Judgment October 22]

Findings of fact by which the governing body of an infant school concluded that allegations made against the school's head teacher had not been substantiated and that she should be reinstated, were binding upon the defendant authority in respect of all disciplinary proceedings against her, and the defendant authority's disciplinary subcommittee were precluded from rehearing the case.

Mr Justice Roch so held in the Queen's Bench Division granting a declaration to the plaintiff, Miss Maureen McGoldrick, that the findings of fact made pursuant to the school's articles of government by the governing body of Sudbury Infants School, in the London Borough of Brent, at its meeting on August 26, 1986, to consider a complaint against her, were binding upon the defendant in respect of all disciplinary proceedings against the plaintiff in relation to such complaint.

No further orders were made upon the defendant's undertaking to restrain its disciplinary subcommittee from holding or continuing with disciplinary proceedings against the plaintiff save and except upon the basis of the findings of the governing body, and from holding a full or any hearing to consider the allegations that the plaintiff had made racist remarks in telephone conversations for which she had been suspended.

In the course of the hearing the defendant also indicated that if the court found that the

plaintiff's contract of employment was to be interpreted as subject to their right to appeal to the Court of Appeal, the plaintiff would be reinstated.

Mr James Goudie, QC and Mr Martin Reynolds for the plaintiff; Mr David Turner-Samuels, QC and Mr David Altaras for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE ROCH said that the school's board of governors reached the unanimous decision that there was no evidence to substantiate the allegations that the plaintiff had made racist remarks and that she should be reinstated.

That was followed by a meeting of the authority's subcommittee, the purpose of which was to receive recommendations and take appropriate action following the meeting of the governing body of Sudbury Infants School.

The plaintiff was not told of that meeting and was not asked to attend. The subcommittee had been expected to say that the plaintiff's suspension should cease. Unhappily it did not do that.

Instead the subcommittee resolved to hold a full hearing in the light of the allegations made. On September 5, 1986, the plaintiff received a letter informing her that the subcommittee intended to hold a rehearing, and as a result she commenced this action.

On September 12, Mr Justice Garland granted interim injunctions to prevent the subcommittee from carrying out the full hearing, pending trial of this action and his Lordship adopted the reasons given for granting the injunctions.

There were two routes by which complaints should be dealt with. First, allegations of misconduct by reference to the school governing body which determined the facts and made a recommendation for dismissal.

Second, any other grounds where there was a recommendation by the governors, which might be because the governors themselves made the complaint. The matter was then dealt with by the authority's subcommittee.

There was therefore a single hearing of the facts.

Here the procedure chosen was to refer the complaint to the governing body of the school. They found that the remark complained of was not made. So they did not make a recommendation for dismissal, but for reinstatement.

Therefore the resolution taken by the subcommittee to rehear the case was one which they were not entitled to take. The argument that there should be a power in the local education authority to order a second hearing was misconceived.

If the governing body was likely to reach a perverse finding of fact, the alternative route could be taken by the plaintiff, namely the independent staff appeals committee.

In his Lordship's judgment there was no question of delegation of authority and the disciplinary procedure laid down in the articles of government was not *ultra vires* and it was consistent with the Education Act 1944.

Solicitors: H. Pierce; Mr S. R. Forster, Wembley.

Cheque card misuse abroad

Regina v Bevan
Before Lord Justice Neill, Mr Justice Tudor Evans and Mr Justice Staughton
[Reasons October 16]

A person who used a cheque card to obtain money in excess of the limit permitted by the issuing bank was borrowing by way of overdraft. Where he dishonestly obtained money by that method he would be guilty of obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception contrary to section 16 of the Theft Act 1968.

If the use of the cheque card took place abroad he could be tried in England for the offence because the pecuniary advantage would have been obtained in England.

The Court of Appeal so held giving its reasons for dismissing on September 18 an appeal by the defendant, David John Bevan, against his conviction at Southwark Crown Court (Judge Carter, QC and a jury) of, *inter alia*, obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception.

Mr Philip Sutton for the defendant; Mr Jeremy Gompertz for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that the appeal raised two points.

First, was a person "allowed to borrow" by way of overdraft in the terms of section 16 when he used a cheque card in excess of the limit permitted by the bank that issued it?

Second, if so, could the offence be tried in England even when the use of the cheque card took place abroad?

The defendant's first point was that he was not allowed to borrow because there was never any agreement between him and Lloyds Bank that he should do so. Mr Sutton submitted that an overdraft was an arrangement by agreement with a bank, a person was entitled to draw money in excess of the sums that he had deposited.

In their Lordships' judgment that was one meaning but not the other of the word "overdraft". In ordinary speech a person might say "I have obtained an overdraft from my bank", meaning that he had obtained the consent of the bank to the overdraft limit up to which he could in the future become overdrawn. But equally he might say "I have an overdraft on my bank", meaning only that his account showed a debtor balance, with or without the express consent of the bank manager.

However, there were authorities which were consistent only with the conclusion that a bank card transaction was a borrowing by way of overdraft. In those circumstances the defendant's first argument failed.

When the defendant's bank received a request by the payee bank for reimbursement in respect of a cheque drawn by the defendant, the bank complied. The defendant's motive was the protection of its reputation as well as its contractual obligation owed to the payee bank.

But reimbursement by the defendant's bank was nevertheless an act of borrowing by the bank to borrow money on the overdraft, and the overdraft was consensual since the defendant had implicitly requested it and the bank had, albeit reluctantly, agreed.

In considering the second argument as to jurisdiction it had to be emphasized that the defendant was charged with obtaining by deception the pecuniary advantage of borrowing by way of overdraft with a

bank in London. He was not charged with theft or obtaining money by deception which was conceded to be held to have taken place wholly in Brussels or Paris.

If an English court had no jurisdiction when a person resided in England and with an English bank account used his cheque card abroad dishonestly, a great deal of dishonesty might go unpunished and it might be necessary for Parliament to consider legislation.

The basic principle was stated in *Archbold Criminal Pleading Evidence & Practice* (1986) ed., paragraph 2-28: "No British subject can be tried under English law for an offence committed abroad unless there is a statutory provision to the contrary".

In the case of statutory offences the rule was ascribed by Lord Diplock in *Treacy v DPP* (1971) AC 573 to the presumed intention of Parliament not to infringe principles of comity between nations. *Treacy* was a case of blackmail.

The court was also referred to *R v Baxter* (1972) 1 QB 1 and *DPP v Stonehouse* (1978) AC 55, both concerned with deception contrary to section 15 of the 1968 Act.

It emerged clearly from those cases that, where a particular result was part of the definition of a crime, then the crime might be tried in England even if only the result occurred in England.

That was the present case. The defendant had by his conduct abroad dishonestly obtained for himself a pecuniary advantage in England, namely a borrowing by way of overdraft.

Solicitors: David D. Lewis & Co; Metropolitan Police Solicitor.

Hanley and Gill are jokers in pack to face the awesome Australians

Aces wild for Bamford's Britain

Simon Barnes

When Great Britain take on the awesome Australians tomorrow, they will be swept away if they show the slightest hint of their joint resolve. "G'day, Maurice, how would you describe your team?" an Australian of the Press conference asked. "Brilliant," Maurice Bamford, the not-un-bullish British coach, said.

They need to be. It is essential that Bamford has built that most elusive of things, a team in which the whole is mightier than the sum of its parts. Every coach tries; few succeed. And the memories of the last Australians is still lucid in the minds of rugby league men. They were reckoned to be the finest rugby team of either code to play in Britain. This new bunch want to be even better. Bamford has vowed as much.

The boring way to accomplish it is to pack your team with the most solid of men, and to aim first at restricting the Australian score. You select the men who do what they are told and who never do much wrong. Or you can try and counter. You can add the flamboyant and the unconventional to the mix. This is the route Bamford has taken. Elery Hanley is the spectacular runner, the man who can be a star and a disappointment on alternate days. Henderson Gill is the odd ball. "I don't play to a plan," he said. "I do what comes naturally."

This means ambling in and out of positions, turning up anywhere he fancies he might get a sniff of the ball. In short, a coaching nightmare. You just can't have an orderly and predictable game-plan if you pick a fellow like Gill. If you are particularly fond of game-plans, Gill is not the boy for you.

"I am so pleased the Great Britain coach has told me to play my natural game," Gill said. "I like to go hunting for the ball, you see. What I love is open space. The season has been a great one for him so far. At the beginning, the Wigan coach told us all he didn't want robots, he didn't want to stifle flair. Well, my eyes lit up. And now I have my Great Britain shirt back as well. We'll be playing on a football pitch (Old Trafford), which is a bit wider than a normal rugby

pitch. Give me a lot of ball on an open field and the opposition will be worried."

"The British coach has told me I can go wherever I like, so long as I am back on my wing when I have to make a tackle and, well, I agree with that really. But basically my philosophy is simple, I create havoc. I create havoc among the opposition, and I hope someone can capitalise on it."

To have such a person in your team is either a horror or a gift from the gods, depending on your own philosophy of havoc, or perhaps on whether Gill's instinctive wanderings have led him to a good day or a bad one.

Some coaches just can't bear the idea of nonconformism. But sports psychologists have pointed out that often the nonconformist is a vital part of the team. Not just in tactical terms, but also because the nonconformist helps create and maintain team spirit. Team members like an odd ball, it helps with the jokes and it helps the team to define itself. It is an important role to play.

"Some research suggests that when a situation permits a person to be himself, to act freely and with integrity, his behaviour will be the most constructive and creative of which he is capable."

It is when he is under pressure and going to be something other than what he is, to be alienated from himself that he is likely to become a problem personality. This is a book on sport psychology, *Team Spirit: The Elusive Experience*, by John Syer, out next month. It makes one take a closer look at the way teams work.

Hanley is the most dashing of players, a flamboyant individualist, but he is also a team player through and through. "I would not call myself a maverick. What I have is match awareness. I use my instincts to set things up or to score. If you see a gap, you go for it."

"But the thing is that people always see the man who carries the ball. Me. People don't



Coach's nightmare, match-winning dream: Gill, who dares to be different and always exciting

always understand that it is the forwards who win the match for you, and that I just finish it. They win the game, I get the glory. These grafters and workers and tacklers, they are juggling with me when I score a try, but I am juggling with them when they make a tackle. I am saying, I wish I'd done that."

These grafters, to quote Syer again, "work hard in training, do their best in matches, and yet in some way seem to drift along with events, without pushing their considerable ability to the limits. Not hungry enough to explore..."

"Many people dedicate their lives to actualizing a concept of what they should be like, rather than actualizing themselves," Peris said in *Goal Therapy Verbatim*. When they do this, they are more predictable and lack flair. Considered harshly, such conformity is a form of escapism, a settling for less than what one might otherwise achieve, when one is faced with a challenge of a hard

struggle, of being different, or the risk of failure."

True, it is likely to be as disastrous if you build teams entirely of wild individualists as it is if you build a team quite devoid of flair. But it is the first error that coaches are more prone to, in just about every sport. Teams need a touch of wildness: "Hanley is the most dangerous ball-carrier in the country," Bamford said. "He is a world-class player who has not yet gained the correct reputation outside Britain. He has been banished to the wing in internationals, things like that. God knows why? Now he is in the right place, and if he is on form, you Australians will draw your breath a bit. He has flair, he has an imaginative approach. He has just never been in the right shop window to impress you."

Bamford sees the 1982 Australian tour as an equivalent to the dramatic visit by Hungary to the English football in the 50s. "In the same way, it

has forced us to take our heads out of the sand," he said. The test for him, as for his team, comes tomorrow, when the world will see whether his classic blend of flair and solidity will do the business.

Syer said: "Some coaches don't want star players, believing that team spirit is based in equality. I think they are mistaken. The players may be equal, but equal in diversity. To confuse equality with sameness would be a mistake. You would lose team spirit by pursuing such a policy, in the act of trying to defend it."

Modesty is considered becoming — how many football players interviewed after a match have said: "It's really all due to the lads, Brian?" yet some athletes have a natural positive arrogance which is far more exciting and presents a challenge which can bring out the best in everyone."

Team Spirit: The Elusive Experience by John Syer. Published by Kingswood Press, Price £12.95.

CYCLING

Doyle to cash in on victory

By Michael Coleman

Fresh, though not necessarily in the physical sense, from winning the first British ride in the Dortmund event last night, the second in the season's series, facing what must be his most lucrative year so far.

His win with Danny Clark, of Australia, has automatically made him not only a hero for the promoters.

Berlin proved a tough start, Doyle and Clark snatching victory only on the final night after a massive onslaught by Urs Freuler, of Switzerland, and Rene Pijnen, of The Netherlands. At the end of the fourth night Doyle and Clark were caught by Freuler and Pijnen, only for Doyle to edge ahead by six points.

Doyle, the world pursuit champion, is the only British rider to have won a professional circuit, but at Dortmund he will have as morale support in the amateurs' event, Russell Williams and Nick Barnes.

Williams, 25, had the mixed blessing this season of paying his own way to the Colorado Springs world championships despite winning gold, silver and bronze medals at the national title contests at Leicester. Doyle had similar treatment in 1980, being dropped to reserve at the Moscow Olympics. He turned professional and within a month was world champion.

Six-day fortunes gleamed, Oct 22-27's bested Oct 23-27's best. Nov 6-11: Best, Nov 12-17: Maastricht, Nov 18-21: Ghent, Nov 22-25: Zwolle, Nov 26-29: Copenhagen, Jan 29-Feb 2: Milan, Feb 14-18.

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ATHLETICS

Spedding on the road again after his Edinburgh flop

From Pat Butcher, Chicago

Given that law about action and reaction being equal and opposite, it seems only fair that the road to rehabilitation should be the same distance as the road to ruin. But in Charlie Spedding's case, rehabilitation is seven miles further down the road, which is a long way from anyone's standards when it is on foot at 12mph.

Spedding's road to ruin stretched 19 miles, which was the point at which he dropped out of the Commonwealth marathon in Edinburgh three months ago.

Spedding's road to rehabilitation, all 264 miles of it, comes on Sunday in the grandiosely styled America's marathon here.

Spedding, aged 34, had been one of the favourites for the Commonwealth race, eventually won by the Australian, Rob de Castella. And, apart from the shock of dropping out, the most galling thing for the Englishman was that he was not even in the top 10.

Spedding was not even in the top 10, which is a shame for a man who has been a world champion and a Commonwealth champion. He has been a world champion and a Commonwealth champion. He has been a world champion and a Commonwealth champion.

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BASEBALL

Series even as Mets win again

Boston (Reuters) — The New York Mets, in full stride after a sluggish start, combined power and pitching to beat the Boston Red Sox 6-2 last Wednesday night at Fenway Park and draw even in the World Series.

Winning the second game in turning the tables on the Red Sox, who swept the opening two games of the best-of-seven series at Shea Stadium in New York.

Gary Carter, the Mets' catcher, hit two home runs and an unlikely slugger, Len Dykstra, added another in a 12-hit attack that backed a strong pitching performance by Ron Darling. The Mets have come alive on the mound as well as at the bat as the usually potent Boston offense has managed only three runs and 12 hits since returning home.

Darling, a hard-luck 1-0 loser in the opening series game, pitched seven scoreless innings, giving up just four hits although he risked a self-inflicted injury after roughing up Boston's starting pitcher, Dennis "Oil Can" Boyd, on the way to a 7-1 win in game three. The Mets' batters waited three innings before getting going, with Roger Clemens, an extra day of rest.

Nipper kept out of trouble and had New York hitting the ball harmlessly on the ground, until his sinking pitches began to come up in the fourth inning. Dykstra, whose lead-off home run ignited the Mets in game three, provided New York with insurance runs against the Boston reliever, Steve Crawford, in the seventh inning when right fielder Dwight Gooden, just missed a great leaping save only to drop the ball when he crashed into the fence for a two-run home run.

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Edited by Peter Dear
and Christopher Daville

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Golden days when variety was the spice of life

Over the past few years, Granada has made a specialty of big, beautiful blockbusters with period settings, think of *Brideshead Revisited* and *Jewel in the Crown*. Here is another, a seven-part serial called *Lost Empires* (ITV, 8.30pm) from the J.B. Priestley novel set in Britain's music halls in 1914. Don't expect the seedy, dying world of John Osborne's *The Entertainer* — this is the star-studded variety theatre in its heyday, which Priestley uses as an analogy for the pre-First World War "great golden afternoon" of England. Ian Curteis's adaptation cuts the Priestley dialogue to the bone, with some loss of characterization, but the glamour and excitement of the theatre in those simpler days is conveyed wonderfully. We see it all through the eyes of a young Yorkshireman

who joins the troupe of his sinister uncle Nick, "the Great Ganga Dun, Maharajah of Mystery". A splendid cast includes, for this first episode, Laurence Olivier (in an echo of his screen role as The Entertainer) playing an aged, doomed "eccentric comedian". Unlike the comic, Lord Olivier has not lost his touch.

On the BBC1, 10.25pm is a profile of Australian novelist, Peter Carey, whose extraordinary confessions of a 139-year-old companion, "Illywhacker", was shortlisted for last year's Booker Prize.

On its first showing last March, Screen Two's *The Russian Soldier* (BBC2, 9pm) achieved less than its due impact because it was just one in a spate of "Big Brother Is Watching You" suspense dramas,

CHOICE

including the much flashier *Edge of Darkness*. This is a slower-moving, more naturalistic and ultimately more chilling tale.

Another underrated programme: *Gallery* (Ch4, 2.30pm) is an amusing and incidentally educational art quiz, hosted by George Melly. The teams each comprise an art student and a celebrity (this week, Norman St John-Sivras and Molly Parkin); the regular team captains are art lecturer Frank Whitford, and painter Maggi Hambling, a marvellously charismatic if faintly sinister personality, habitually dressed in black and wreathed in cigarette smoke, who fires us with the glittering eye of an Ancient Mariner. Original and fun.

Pixote (Ch4, 11.15pm) is the Brazilian film which was named best foreign movie of its year (1981) by both New York and Los Angeles critics, against competition from *Melphisto* and *Wajda's Man of Iron*. Its director, Hector Babenco, also made *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. The story is based on the facts that 50 per cent of the Brazilian population is under 21; three million children are destitute and homeless; and minors cannot be prosecuted, so are used to front serious crime. The film centres on Pixote, an abandoned ten-year-old boy living on the squalid streets of São Paulo. An angry, crusading film which carries the Channel 4 warning triangle.

Radio tackles one of Shakespeare's more curious and difficult comedies, *All's Well that Ends Well* (Radio 3, 7.30pm), with the aid of a stout cast led by Alfred Burke, Bernard Hepton, Maureen O'Brien, Greg Hicks and Nicholas Grace. Shakespeare pinched the story from Painter's *Palace of Pleasures*, published in 1566, in which young Count Bertrand enters the service of the dying King of France, Helena, daughter of Bertrand's late family physician, is able to cure the King with one of her father's recipes, and in gratitude he offers her a husband. She chooses Bertrand but he is unwilling and flees to Florence. She plots to overcome his disdain. A rather cynical piece, with neither hero nor heroine particularly attractive, but interesting without.

Anne Campbell Dixon



Laurence Olivier (centre) Colin Firth and John Castle (ITV, 8.30pm)

- BBC1**
- 5.00 *Cee-fax AM*.
- 5.50 *Breakfast Time* with Frank Bough and Deborah Rus. Greenwood. Weather at 6.55, 7.25, 7.55, 8.25 and 8.55; regional news, weather and traffic at 8.57, 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27; national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 8.55; sport at 7.20 and 8.20; and a review of the morning newspapers at 8.37.
- 9.05 *Will to Win*. The story of Audrey Slaughter's battle to produce a new magazine. (r) Cee-fax 10.30 Play School.
- 9.35 *10.30 Cee-fax*.
- 1.00 *News After Noon* with Moira Stuart and Laurie Mayer. Includes news headlines with subtitles 1.25 Regional news. The weather details come from Michael Fish 1.30 Barista. A See-Saw programme for the very young. (r)
- 1.45 *Snooker and Racing*. David Vine introduces quarterfinal action in the Rothmans Grand Prix from the Hazon, Reading, and Julian Wilson is at Newbury for the Flavel Leisure Four-Year-Old Hurdle (2.30); the Glyndwr International Steeplechase (3.00); and the Leisure Thinking Stick Steeplechase (3.30). The 4.00 race is on BBC 2. 3.52 Regional news.
- 3.55 *Whizz*. (r) 4.05 *SuperTed*. Cartoon. (r) 4.15 *Beat the Teacher*. Paul Jones presents another round of the pupils versus teachers quiz game. 4.30 *Cheggers Plays Pop*. Quizzes, games and pop music presented by Keith Chegwin. Sue Wayman and Michele Kennedy. Among the guests is comedian Ken Dodd. 5.00 *John Craven's Newsround*. 5.10 *Grange Hill*. Episode six of the 24-part drama serial and Jackie is demoted by Zarnzo's lack of cash. (r) (Cee-fax).
- 5.35 *Masterclass*. Knock-out quiz for teams, presented by Angela Rippon.
- 1.05 *Weather*.

- BBC2**
- 9.00 *Cee-fax*.
- 9.30 *Daytime on Two* careers guidance services offered by Hertfordshire and Leicestershire. The story of a girl who befriends a badger 10.15 A small country field in Scotland during the four seasons 10.30 *Mathematical Investigations*. 11.00 *Wondermathe*. 11.17 Man's efforts to save the coastlines of Dorset and Hampshire. 11.40 *Using old machinery* as subjects for drawing 12.00 *New Yorker Journalist John Hersey's* account of his visit to Hiroshima shortly after the hydrogen bomb was dropped on the city 12.30 *People from several walks of life discuss the fascination of motor cars* 1.05 *Using popular television programmes to learn English* 1.30 *Songs of protest* 2.00 *For four- and five-year-olds* 2.15 *Snooker and Racing*. The Rothmans Grand Prix quarterfinals from the Hazon, Reading; and from Newbury, the Falcon Catering Equipment Novices' Hurdle (4.00).
- 4.00 *Leslie's Great Adventure* (1983) starring the canny canine and John Provost. June Lockhart and Hugh Reilly. Adventure about the search for Leslie and her companion, Timmy, who are deposited in a wilderness when a balloon breaks loose and carries them away. Directed by William Baseline. 4.15 *Micro Live*. Fred Harris examines a number of the best games for the home micro; and Ian McNaught-Davis tells the sad story of the ingenious computer-controlled sail which can save a tenth of a ship's fuel bill, but bankrupted its designer.
- 4.30 *International Snooker*. A quarterfinal match in the Rothmans Grand Prix. 4.50 *Gardeners' World*. Geoff Hamilton is in the shrubbery explaining how to take cuttings from existing shrubs in order to enlarge the garden; and John Kelly is in the greenhouse building an alpine garden.
- 5.00 *Screen Two: The Russian Soldier*. Warren Clarke, Alan MacNaughtan, and Patrick Malahide. A mystery story about a farmer who discovers his livestock dying and neither he nor the local vet can discover why. A man from the ministry arrives and seals off the farm. 5.15 *Micro Live*. 5.25 *Micro Live*. 5.35 *Micro Live*. 5.45 *Micro Live*. 5.55 *Micro Live*. 6.00 *Micro Live*.
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SPORT

Roebuck rides heated debates

By Ivo Tennant

The latest instalment in the Somerset cricket saga took the form of heated debates between the group opposed to the dismissal of the club's star overseas players and the captain, Peter Roebuck, who is siding with the committee. Yorkshire's internal wrangles are rapidly being made to appear small beer by comparison.

The occasion was a press conference in Taunton yesterday, appropriately enough held in the Monmouth Room of the Castle Hotel. The rebel faction who called it claimed that Somerset CCC have denied them access to the lists of the 4,800 members, and that members have been offered transport to vote at the general committee meeting on November 8, by individuals on behalf of the club.

The rebels, who comprise 25 people, are intent on removing Roebuck as captain, and reinstating Vivian Richards and Joel Garner. Somerset's two overseas players. They claim that if Richards were appointed captain, Ian Botham would not only play with the club, but play his heart out for his great friend.

"We feel the members have a right and indeed a duty to intervene," Richard Weston, aged 42, the leader of the rebel faction, said. He became a Somerset member when he was nine. "We consider that poor management is the root cause of the club's problems. We have to mention the club's secretary and chief executive, Tony Brown, Richards and Garner cannot be made scapegoats for the poor performances of the team."

"The captain, who before his appointment admitted to being a loner and not a team man, has now, it is claimed, before the club can be revived, both he and the club need a spell in the wilderness. Why should that be?" Weston said.

"Richards and Garner have not been a disruptive influence in the dressing room, as has been confirmed by nearly all the senior players who have played with them in recent years. We are told that four, five, or more of the younger players will not sign for next season if Richards and Garner are re-engaged. The committee cannot name them and the players themselves do not know."

When the rebel faction, led yesterday by Mr Weston, Peter White, a committee member for 14 years, Mrs Bridget Langdon, and Michael Gould, wound up their press conference, Roebuck held one of his own, under their noses. "It is not true that a conspiracy was planned 18 months ago to get rid of Richards and Garner," he said.

"Obviously I would resign as captain if the club's decision was overturned," he said. "I heard today I would be sacked anyway, and it would be impossible for me to play under a new administration."

Let England play in Europe again Beenhakker says

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

A powerful and eloquent orator has joined the debate over whether English clubs, the lepers of the European community, should be invited back. Leo Beenhakker, the manager of Real Madrid, firmly supports the motion and he is convinced he speaks on behalf of the whole continent.

He could present the case almost on his own as well. Apart from the intrusion of the soft lilt of his native tongue, the Dutchman is otherwise perfectly fluent in English and Spanish. On Wednesday night, after his side's stunning European Cup tie against Juventus, he freely demonstrated his command of all three languages.

In the middle of responding to journalists drawn from across the globe by the prospect of the dazzling fixture, he offered some words of comfort to England's top clubs. "I would like to see them back in Europe," he said. To emphasize the strength and urgency of his opinion, he added "today rather than tomorrow."

"England is part of Europe and we are, after all, competing in the European Cup. I appreciate that you have problems with your fans, though the problem has never affected

me personally. That is the responsibility of your federation first of all and of Mrs Thatcher. The clubs themselves are hardly to blame."

"England lies deep in the traditions of this competition and I like your football. Everybody does, here in Spain, in Holland, in Germany..." His voice trailed off but, with an expansive sweep of his hand, he suggested that the list of admirers stretched far across the broad map of Europe.

Beenhakker should know. Although his experience was previously limited to his homeland, he has travelled extensively over the last decade with the likes of Ajax, Feyenoord and also while he was the manager of the national side. Now he is in charge of arguably the biggest club in the world.

Only the complacent would expect UEFA to share his view. The governing body is unlikely to lift the ban it imposed 15 months ago until there is unmistakable evidence that all the domestic authorities and the government are combining successfully at home. There are signs at least that they are doing so, albeit inexcusably belatedly.

There are signs, too, that the

damage inflicted by English hooligans have proved to be a beneficial effect. Europeans are now more prepared for potential violence. On Wednesday night an extra 200 policemen, some of them on horseback, were drafted in.

Alcohol was banned. Each package carried into the ground was confiscated until after the game and stewards guarded every entrance and alleyway. For more than an hour before the kick-off video films, displayed on two giant screens, were accompanied by music of varying styles. There is no other arena in the world that can match the show that is presented within the Bernabeu stadium.

No other tie could have surpassed the quality displayed on the pitch either. Real's attacking brilliance, which vividly recalled memories of their glorious past, shone for an hour but they penetrated the defensive talent of Juventus only once, through Butragueno.

Beenhakker will order his gifted individuals to be equally "offensive" during the second leg in Turin. Real's followers would expect nothing else, although the plan is dangerously risky.

Fluent Russians, page 36

Wrexham's display would have Liverpool crowing

By Clive White

Wrexham struck a blow for absent friends with their astonishing goalless draw away to one of Spain's premier sides in European competition on Wednesday evening. With the best of the English teams barred indefinitely from Europe for reasons beyond their control, the Football League find themselves represented by a fourth division club who carried the banner with a pride and purpose that any first division club would have done well to equal.

No greater compliment could be paid them than to say that Liverpool would have been delighted to have achieved the result which the little Welsh club thoroughly earned against Real Zaragoza in the Aragon capital. The performance said more about British traits than the strength

and depth of British football. Dixie McNeil, the Wrexham manager, was the first to admit that his side could not possibly match the pace and control of the Spaniards. But in matters of the heart, the supposedly impassionate British are without equal. "Europe must be well pleased there is no leading English clubs competing," McNeil said.

"There is no way that a fourth division club should be able to match a first division one of this quality. But that's what happened."

George Showell, his coach who was never short of character in Billy Wright's Wolverhampton Wanderers team of the fifties, thought that the course of the match was set by the first 20 minutes of each half. The overall contest could have been

encapsulated in the personal duels between Charles and Señor, who is reputed to be Spain's outstanding midfielder player, even in the opinion of John Toshack, the former Welsh international who now manages Real Sociedad.

Charles, one of only four players in the Wrexham squad of 16 was signed for a fee, showed the Spaniard no respect or respite. He hounded him all evening until Señor gradually lost his composure and his hunger for the fight.

Wales's oldest club have achieved too many "miraculous" results in Europe over the years for this one to have been any more of a fluke. Ten years ago they reached the quarter-final round of this Cup Winners' Cup competition only to lose 3-1 on aggregate to Anderlecht, the eventual winners. Two years ago they defeated Porto, former European finalists, and only lost to AS Roma after two disgraceful decisions went against them in the Olympic stadium.

However, to expect victory now for the Welsh club would be to place upon them an unfair burden which at the moment is more appropriately upon the shoulders of Real Zaragoza.



Swedish style: Lindqvist displays her delightful backhand

TENNIS

Lindqvist leads splendid Swedes

By Rex Bellamy

Catarina Lindqvist, the nimble little star turn of Swedish women's tennis, advanced to the last eight of the Pretty Polly tournament by beating Ann Henricksson 6-2, 6-1 at Brighton yesterday.

Miss Henricksson, who comes from Minnesota, is strongly built and wears shorts almost as roomy as those prevalent among footballers in the days of Matthews.

Miss Henricksson led 2-0, but had no further cause for optimism. She had a heavy cold and was not in Miss Lindqvist's class anyway. It was not a match to inspire, although that is unlikely to happen at the Brighton Centre in any case. Spectators tend to be so quiet that one suspects they have to take a vow of silence to obtain tickets.

Since December, Miss Lindqvist has not been beaten once ranked above her. But she reached the last eight of the Australian and Wimbledon championships and the last 16 in the French and United States championships. She has a joyously fluent backhand and is probably the best player ever to emerge from Swedish women's tennis. But, aged 23, the peaks may be out of her reach.

For five years Volvo are sponsoring a scheme to raise Swedish women's tennis to

the same level as the men. For the past 12 months three squads of players have worked with a team of coaches, led by Birger Folke, who already has satisfaction with 17 Swedes in the women's world rankings.

"Coaches and players are working closely together and the scheme is going quite well," Folke said yesterday. "But it takes a long time to develop a good national standard. The boys have had Swedish idols for 30 years, but with the girls we have had to start without that. At present I'm here with Catarina, another coach is touring Asia with four girls, and two coaches are working with another group at a special school started two years ago in Bastad — the players work on tennis for three or four hours a day but also go to school."

Miss Lindqvist's next opponent will be Claudia Kohde-Kisch, who broke service once in each set to beat Barbara Potter 6-4, 6-4. This is Miss Potter's first tournament since an ominous back problem last June. Miss Kohde-Kisch had the sounder, more flexible ground strokes. Miss Potter was prone to foot-fault and timed her volleyed drops far better than she timed her ground strokes or her rusty deep volleys.

Robin White, like Miss Lindqvist, is striving to qualify for the 16-strong singles field in the £345,000 Virginia Slims championships, to be played in New York from November 17 to 23. Miss White, a Californian tomboy with a taste for gambling, won yesterday's first set with a gambler's throw — a drop shot service return — and beat Grace Kim, of New Jersey, by 6-3, 7-5.

RESULTS: Second round R White (US) bt G Kim (US), 6-3, 7-5; C Lindqvist (Swe) bt A Henricksson (Swe), 6-2, 6-1; C Kohde-Kisch (FRG) bt B Potter (US), 6-4, 6-4.

GOLF

Brand wants a new role

From Mitchell Platts, Quinta do Lago

Gordon J Brand launched his challenge for the Portuguese Open with a first round of 68 on the course here yesterday in the hope of easing the burden of worrying about the first prize he might never receive.

Brand began his year by winning the Nigerian Open but he has yet to be paid for that victory and as every week slips past with no further information from West Africa he confesses to being increasingly concerned about the £16,000 that he is owed.

By a strange coincidence the

Portuguese Open, which brings the curtain down on the year, offers a first prize of £16,660 and while that alone would not be adequate compensation there is little doubt that Brand would rest more comfortably with a European title to his credit.

In 10 years on the tour he has been compelled to play a part among the supporting cast. It is a role that has become all too familiar to him. Greg Norman won the Open Championship at Turnberry in July but only three months later the trick question in sporting quizzes

could well be: who finished runner up?

In fact Brand filled that position and the £50,000 which he won at Turnberry has helped to propel him towards a personal record in terms of prize winnings. He has already earned more than twice his previous best in a single season with £104,067 for fifth place in the Epson Open of Merit.

Brand's effort to earn that

Card of course

Hole	Mrs Par	Hole	Mrs Par
1	410	4	390
2	190	5	500
3	480	6	387
4	325	7	171
5	383	8	505
6	230	9	350
7	172	10	188
8	510	11	395
9	413	12	385

Out 3,283 36 In 3,225 36

Total metres: 6,488 Par: 72

clusive first European victory began with a flawless performance in which he gathered four birdies to move to within two strokes of Sandy Lyle and Mark McNulty, of Zimbabwe, who share the lead.

Merit the race for survival began with only the leading 125 in the money list automatically assured of their playing privileges for next season and of those in the danger area, Peter Baker, the former Walker Cup player, made a sound move in the right direction with a 69.

RESULTS: First round scores (GB unless stated): S Lyle, M McNulty (Smi), 67; M Johnson, J Brand (Smi), 68; J Brand, M Whitworth (SA), J M Canard (S), 69; D Whitelaw, S Cope, M Persson (Swe), A Pether (S), M Lacey, A Jones (Smi), P Baker (P), P Martin (S), B Longmuir (S), M Acar (S), S Swinburn (S), S Loran, C O'Connor (Ire), E Rodriguez (S), A O'Connor, J O'Leary (Ire), M Allen (US), P Head, R Raftery, G Turner, L Garza (Arg), C Rocco (It), G Oak (Ir), O Selberg (Swe), S Luna (S), P Allen, D Duggan, N Hagan,

Latins hold the reins of world sport

By John Goodbody

The Latin control of international sport is complete. The overwhelming vote last week for Barcelona to stage the 1992 Olympic is the climax of a series of political decisions that has made the Latin countries of Europe and South America an uncannily frequent choice to stage major events.

Latin officials, invariably working together in reciprocal deals, have stepped into the vacuum left by the fading between the English-speaking nations and the Communist Bloc.

Juan Antonio Samaranch (Spain), Joao Havelange (Brazil), Mario Vazquez Rana (Mexico) and Primo Nebiolo (Italy) all are either business men or lawyers (or both). Unlike their predecessors they have a dedicated, professional approach, exploiting the commercial possibilities of their offices. They hold their positions because they have been successful at expanding both their organizations and the significance of sport itself.

Britain, in particular, has been a casualty in the shift to the domination of the Latin countries. During the 1970s, Sir Stanley Rous, was President of FIFA, the Marquis of Exeter, was President of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), Charles Palmer, the President of the International Judo Federation and Secretary of the General Assembly of International Federations (GAIF) and David Gray, Secretary of the International Tennis Federation. All these positions have now been lost, together with the secretaries or presidencies of several other international federations.

Both Rous and Palmer, now chairman of the British Olympic Association, were outmanoeuvred by a combination of the Soviet Bloc, its Third World allies and Latin nations. Many international federations now have a member of the Soviet Bloc as a key administrator. But the top positions have gone to the Latins with their greater experience of commercial possibilities for sport. In 1974, Havelange defeated Rous with promises to the Third World. He pledged (and kept his promise) to expand the World Cup finals from 16 nations to 24 and so ensured that Third World countries would be represented.

In a number of big sponsorship deals, he made certain that smaller countries would benefit with money available for coaching and development. Unlike Rous, Havelange has been a successful businessman and he knew how to get the maximum benefit for an extremely saleable commodity to TV and sponsorship — international football. Havelange was an outrageously enthusiastic supporter of Barcelona for the 1992 Games — there was even a stand for its candidature in

this year's World Cup press centre. Samaranch, who was born in Barcelona, could afford to remain neutral in the lobbying because Havelange was doing the job for him.

Samaranch, a former ambassador in Moscow, had indeed even had to use his diplomatic skills to restrain Havelange's enthusiasm to advocate Latin officials. In 1982 when it looked as if the Anglo-Saxons were to lose effective representation on the IOC's Executive Board, Samaranch had to step in to ensure an American was elected.

Appearances have to be maintained. Samaranch's trips round Africa — he has been nicknamed "Mr Africa" — have certainly brought a higher profile to the Olympic movement and benefited sport. But they have also ensured he gets greater support for his project from those countries he has visited.

But some IOC members have clearly been disturbed at his dominance of the Latins. In 1984, Samaranch wanted Nebiolo and Vazquez, clearly suitable candidates, to be elected to the IOC but both were defeated.

Nebiolo is still vexed at the rebound. Under his guidance athletics, the premier Olympic sport, has flourished. The first world athletic championships, an event long overdue but never promoted by the Marquis of Exeter, was an immense success as has been the Grand Prix series of permit meetings. The expansion of athletics has also been partly due to Nebiolo's determination to relax the amateur rules.

But if athletics has benefited, so has Italy. Of the first six World Cups and world championships, two will have been held in Rome. The finals of the first two grand prix series were also held in Italy, scarcely a country noted for its aptitude in athletics.

Even if Nebiolo is not an IOC member, Italy have one strong voice on the eligibility commission. This is Franco Carraro, a former President of the Italian Football Federation who headed the organization of the 1980 European Football Championships. He is politically astute and is knowledgeable about communications since television is among his business interests.

But an even more important link with the media is provided by Vazquez, who last year bought UPI, one of the major international agencies and who owns a chain of 62 Mexican newspapers. He was elected President of the 161 National Olympic Committees in 1979 when the Soviet Bloc switched their allegiance from a Swede to Vazquez and an Italian stood down at the last moment. From leading refrigerators into lotties at the age of 15 he has now become an enormously wealthy businessman with two executive jets.

Primo Nebiolo (Italy)
Age: 63
Languages: Italian, English, French, Spanish
Sports Career: Athletics (long jump)
Profession: Lawyer
Sports Administration: President of International Amateur Athletic Federation (1981-); president of Association of Summer Olympic Committees (1983-); president of International Federation of Association of National Olympic Committees (1987-89); president of the Mexican Olympic Committee; president of the organizing committee for the Pan-American Games.

Juan Antonio Samaranch (Spain)
Age: 65
Languages: Spanish, French, English, German, some Russian
Sports career: Hockey, football
Profession: Industrialist, Spanish ambassador to Moscow (1977-80).
Sports Administration: Member of IOC since 1966 and president of IOC Press commission; president of IOC (1980-).

SPORT IN BRIEF

Request rejected

The International Tennis Federation have turned down Sweden's request that the Davis Cup final against Australia in Melbourne revert to its original date, December 19-21.

The date was changed in the first place to accommodate the Swedish Tennis Association because some of their players were committed to take part in the London Nabisco Masters doubles ending on December 14, thus allowing only two days practice on grass. The Australian LTA offered December 26-28 as the only alternative date when the Kooyong Stadium was available and when television could be secured.

Dittmar debut

Australia's Chris Dittmar, the 24-year-old former world number two is being flown from Adelaide next week to Yorkshire squash side Visco Monroe (Osselt) to make his debut for them in the American Express National Squash League on Tuesday against Nottingham.

Swiss top seed

Bartos-Cserny, of Switzerland, ranked 112th in the world, is the top seed for the opening tournament on the three-week £20,000 LTA women's indoor tennis circuit at Queen's Club, London from November 3 to 7. The British challenge is headed by Julie Salomon (Sussex) and Sally Reeves (Kent), who are seeded fourth and fifth for the Queen's Club week. They are joined by six other British players in the 32-strong main draw.

Lendl's hip

Tennis world champion Ivan Lendl said in Tokyo during the grand prize there that he had moved into low gear until early next year to try and cure a nagging hip problem. "I'm not concerned about winning or losing right now. I'm trying to relax, and to relax my mind... I just want to be ready for the Australian Open in January," the Czechoslovak said after an apparently unhampered 6-2 6-3 win over Australia's Paul McNamee.

Defending

Croydon's Duke McKenzie is to defend his European flyweight title against Giampiero Pinna, of Italy.

Norman back

Greg Norman, triumphant in his last five tournaments, recovered from a disappointing first round to move within two shots of the halfway lead in the South Australian Open yesterday at Adelaide. Norman followed his opening 75 with a four-under-par 68 to share third place behind the joint leaders and fellow Australians, David Graham and Bob Shearer on 141.

Jones again

Steve Jones heads a strong field for the 10 kilometre Kodak Rhy Classic road race on Sunday. It was his first competitive run since the European Championship marathon in Stuttgart, when he dropped back to the rear of the field after leading for much of the way. The opposition includes Hugh Jones, Paul Davis-Hale, Steve Kenyon and the Czechoslovak defectors, Petr and Pavel Klimes.

£10 Open

Golf fans will have to pay a minimum of £10 a day to watch next year's Open championship at Muirfield.

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